Sept 10 days
31
16
57

On the afternoon of Monday the 13th of November 1843 I left the good city of Boston to proceed to Norfolk to join the U. S. frigate Constitution under command of Captain John Percival. which noble old vessel was then under repair for a cruise around the worlds. Thus began my first wanderings among a strange people. Little did I dream when I parted from those most dear to me that ere my eyes should again behold them I should have roamed over the greatest portion of the globe. have been doomed while far from my native place to lament the death of those who but a few months before had wished me success in my new undertaking, and been called upon to add my prayers for the prosperity of those who should afterwards join in the family circle.

After a pleasant passage to Norfolk of three days by way of New York. Philadelphia and Baltimore none of which places I had ever before visited I commenced the duties for which I was selected. and until the 11th of April following the ordinary business of repairing. provisioning and refitting a ship for a long cruise was conducted as is usual in such cases. On the 14th of April we weighed anchor from opposite the Naval Hospital and anchored at dusk of the same day off "old Point Comfort" about six miles from Norfolk. On the 15th following we again weighed anchor discharged the Pilot off Cape Henry and stood out to sea bound for New York to take on board the Hon. H. A. Wise and family as passengers to Brazil.

It will be seen by the foregoing that I remained in Virginia nearly five months. During this time I had abundant opportunities of ascertaining the characters, dispositions and virtues (to say nothing of the vices) of the people. They are hospitable in the extreme a prevailing folley being to appear towards strangers as though they had the wealth of the Indies at their commands. The old proverb of "being just before you are generous" is not much followed in the South - They put one much in mind of a man who laboring for the support of a family during six days. invites his neighbours in upon the seventh to a grand feast thus in a few minutes swallowing up what had taken days to gather together. One great article, that has extended the fame of their New England brethren over the globe is wanting on the sea shores of Virginia. viz "industry" - They rely too much upon the institution of slavery for their bread and seem to look down with disgust upon those who earn a livlihood by the "sweat of their brow". Slave labor is con-

sequently cheap and abundant. Many are the fine farms in Virginia that are running to waste for a want of proper energy and management to carry them on. The land is extremely fertile and well repays the careful husbandman for his labor, but so long as slavery exists there will be a lack of energy and industry. From all I could learn as well as see the slaves are not treated so cruelly as those pests of society the Abolitionists, wants have the world believe. That there are bad men in every class of life no one will for a moment deny, and consequently the slave owner and overseer are not exempted. When the slaves commit a wrong action they are punished, but rarely unjustly. There must be some check upon a low grade of society to prevent crime.

Again the slaves have the appearance of being a happy class. Compare their situation with the free negro of the north who though amongst those who "throw firebrands into the South" is often the most abject and poverty stricken of beings. Cast loose the negroes upon society, they would consequently swarm to our large cities, where many would die of starvation. As it is now a master is bound by law to treat his slave humanely, and fondest affection is often exhibited towards aged man by the "human flesh" of the south. I never heard during my five months sojourn in a land of slavery a single person argue in its favor: but its abolition must be gradual and not in the manner desired by a few Northern fanatics.

While in Portsmouth I enjoyed the society of several families and whom I found very agreable and social. Hospitality is almost always overdone and I received a profusion in Virginia.

Severe gales and head winds were experienced on our passage to New York. We were blown out into the Gulf and I had a severe attack of sea sickness which lasted three days. I could not bear the least particle of food, and I loathed the sight of the choicest dainties. The delights of a sea life! — where were they? — fled, and my mind was brought down for once in my life to its proper level. I threw myself into my bunk, almost disgusted with life itself — my thoughts wandering to that happy friends I had but a few short months before left, and I nearly "vowed a vow" if ever I obtained possession of a square foot of land, there would I stick and never trouble the sea again even for the glory of sailing round the world in "old Ironsides".

But there is a silver lining to every cloud and I was not doomed to end my youthful days by sea sickness. The ship in a short time became easier and I mustered courage enough to go upon deck. I

fully invigorated. It was strange what a "change came over the spirit of my dream". The weather cleared away, my appetite increased, and any one to have seen me then would not have thought I had but a few minutes before been "casting up accounts" with the watery element.

After a very disagreable passage of ten days we anchored off the Battery at New York. A month or more was passed at that place receiving stores, refitting &c &c. My pleasure was much increased by receiving a visit from an affectionate brother and friend who by their presence turned a strange city into almost our own Boston. Our time was passed very pleasantly in visiting the various places of amusement. Their departure left me again a wanderer for with them I was almost at home, and I turned from the wharf with tears in my eyes thinking of the many long, long months that would elapse before his and other beloved faces would meet my view.

On the 24th of May Mr Wise and his family, consisting in all of 13 persons came on board to take passage with us to Rio de Janeiro. The entire cabin was given up to them, the Captain with a laudable desire to please and arrange things comfortably, occupying a portion of the main deck.

On the morning of the 29th of May every thing being in readiness at 10 o'clock we weighed anchor and were towed down to Sandy Hook by the strong steamer "Hercules", and in the afternoon cast her off and stood out to sea under all sail. While on our way we passed the "Columbus" 74 guns, at anchor. Her crew cheered us; we returned the salute. At sunset we showed our flag to an Eng ship also at anchor off the Hook. She was full of emigrants who swarmed her sides as we passed and gave us three noble cheers.

We are now, May 30th, upon the broad Atlantic. As far as the eye can reach nothing meets the gaze but water and boundless horizon. The novice endeavors in vain to catch a glimpse of the land he has just left, but his aching eyes bear testimony against him. Words cannot be found to express the thoughts that fly like lightning through ones mind at the idea of leaving home and friends and every thing that he cares for. To be for two or three long years away from the objects of his affections, with but few around him to take an interest in his welfare, the wanderer is almost alone in the world. Where, when sickness hovers over him will be the kind and watchful eye of the mother? Where the cheering voice of the father? Where the sister's love, and

the affectionate embrace of Brothers and friends? Alas! these famil-ylties are beyond the reach of the invalid. He is surrounded by the cold and stern gaze of strangers, — those whom interest alone has called together. But in the "stilly night" when all around is hushed, perchance his thoughts upon some beloved object — hope, the load-star of a wanderer's life, bids him arouse, look forward to a happy return to his native land, and trust in Him, "who holdeth the waters in the hollow of his hand"

From the day of our sailing until the 9th of June nothing special worthy of notice has taken place, — the usual sickness has attended the landsman, the novelty of a sea life is fast wearing off, the ship is jogging along at the rate of 9 or 10 knots and every one seems happy. Occasionally we observe a sail upon the horizon, a sight which always gladdens the heart of the mariner, or a Porpoise tumbling about in the water which to me was certainly a novel sight. Plenty of the little "Stormy Petrel" or "Mother Carey's chickens" as the sailors call them are following in our wake picking up whatever food is thrown from the ship. These industrious little birds afford a striking example of the goodness of our creator, and the person who sees them striving from sun rise to sun set no matter how stormy it may be, is deeply impressed with the truth of the remark.

A few days since I had the pleasure of dining with Mr Wise and his family and thus relieved the monotony of our passage

On the 12th of June at 2 o'clock in the afternoon land was reported from the mast heads, and on a near approach it proved to be the Island of Flores one of the Western group. At sun set the outline was distinctly visible from deck, having the appearance of a large black cloud on the edge of the horizon, and it was some time before I could bring my mind to believe that the dark object ahead was the beautiful island above mentioned. My first emotions upon seeing this my first foreign land I can hardly describe. I felt as if I was in a new sphere — every thing around me had changed. I was like one bewildered.

At sun rise the next morning (13th) I was on deck anxious to get a sight of the land, when lo and behold we were within four miles of it in a dead calm. Thus we continued for two days and we had excellent views of the island and its neighbour Corvo". Both have the appearance of solid masses of rock entirely destitute of cultivation, but with the aid of a glass houses, fields of grain &c are seen and every part bearing the mark of industry. The people of "Flores" are extremely sociable as are in fact those of the remaining Azores. The climate is one of the best in the world, and sickness is uncommon. Wheat and wine are

raised upon the islands though it is supposed not more than enough for home consumption. and little communication is held with the neighbouring islands. it is generally the first land made by Navigators bound to Fayal &c. but ships do not often visit her ports unless forced in by a stress of weather or want of wood and water as calms prevail under the high lands.

On the 15th of June in the afternoon the celebrated "Peak of Pico" was seen by the look out and at sunset it had the appearance from deck of a sugar loaf or Cone with the top cut off - not exactly a frustum. It looked sublime as the clouds gradually cleared from its base leaving the entire mountain exposed to view. It was distant some sixty miles.

On the morning of the 16th we had an excellent view of the Islands of "Fayal and Pico" the latter being seperated from the former by a narrow channel and having upon it the Peak above referred to and which rises some 8.000 or 9.000 feet above the level of the sea. We had a series of head winds while nearing the islands and we continued beating about until 4 P.M. when the harbour master came on board and took us in. We anchored at 9 P.M. in the Port of "Orta" in 30 fathoms water. The next morning (17th) at sunrise Fayal presented a beautiful appearance indeed. The sun reflecting upon the white roofs caused them to sparkle like silver and my time till breakfast was passed in examining with the minutest attention the boats, houses, churches &c so entirely different from those in the United States.

Fayal

On the morning of the 17th we received a visit from the Vice Consul Frederick Dabney Esq who welcomed us and invited the officers generally to make his mansion their home during our stay. Mr Nye and family at his request went on shore and passed the four days we remained with his family and were extremely pleased with the attention shown them. American ships of war rarely visit the Western Islands on account partly of the calms which prevail in their latitude. We consequently became objects of curiosity to the inhabitants. In the afternoon a party of the younger officers visited the shore and spent a very agreeable time. The streets are very narrow, the houses small and neat and all made of the same material

ing - Lava - of which the island consists. The Convents and Churches are the only variations of area in the way of architecture. A visit to the Convent's gardens well repayed me for a long walk being anxious to see the extent to which the cultivation of fruits and flowers is carried in the Western Islands. The variety, beauty and immense quantities of every kind of tropical plants can hardly be described. The garden was more like what my imagination conceived Paradise to be, more particularly as there was not a single noxious insect or reptile. The climate is exceedingly salubrious and vegetation continually flourishes. The soil is formed of decomposed lava the effects of former eruptions of the extinct volcanoes of which the island is covered, and is considered the most productive in the world. The mercury is never higher than 80° nor lower than 50°. The exports are fruit and wines, though the neighbouring "Pico" furnishes much of the latter and 18,000 pipes have been known to be exported in one year from that island. Fayal has a population of 25,000 people and Orta the largest town 10,000. The Peak of Pico was not visited by any of our officers, the weather being extremely warm. A ride of nearly 18 miles must be accomplished before one reaches the summit. Its ascent is rarely undertaken even by the natives. The whole mountain from the anchorage looked as if covered with green grass and entirely smooth, while on the contrary miles have to be traversed over circuitous routes before curiosity can be satisfied. No eruption has taken place for many years - hot steam however issues from the crater and while in some seasons the middle of the Peak will be covered with snow, the summit is perfectly bare and the temperature is even much higher.

The Azore group of Islands, also called Western, belongs to Portugal and are nearest the continent of Africa. Their importance in the commercial world is great and annually increasing. Labor is exceedingly cheap and can at all times be obtained for 16¢ per day and it seems to be a principle with the Government to keep the poorer classes just where they now are and have been since the first settlement of the islands. A system very similar to that of the old feudal days of England is still practised. The rich always have a certain number of dependents and allow them lands the proceeds of which are paid to the lords. The condition of the laboring class is by this means not much if any higher than that of the old English serfs or Russians of the former days. The dress of the women of Fayal is a very peculiar one which gives them at first sight an extremely odd appearance - it consists of a

large black cloak with a calache of velvet hanging over their faces putting one more in mind of Turkey buzzards than anything else. at first I supposed them to be an order of nuns but was assured it was the common dress of the country. To one unused to observing the splendour that is generally attached to Romish churches and Convents a visit to those in Orta will repay him for the trouble of ascending the steep hills. Gilt, images, wax &c are very abundant.

On the evening of the 18th a ball was given by the Prussian Consul to the officers of the ship most of whom attended. The Portuguese beauties turned out in great force and every thing passed off pleasantly. I was much amused however at seeing the ladies and gentlemen occupying opposite sides of the room after the "Shaker" fashion. There did not appear to exist that cordiality and good feeling so abundant in our public parties at home. The gentlemen appeared suspicious and desirous of keeping the ladies as far from sight as possible. The only disappointment experienced was that of having a silent partner, for as the ladies (many of them) could not talk English and we could not talk Portuguese it was somewhat of a dumb bargain.

The ladies do not promenade the streets much, but as we passed by the houses the latticed windows were often raised and many a pretty face was seen "behind the curtain" desirous of getting a good view of the strangers. The following afternoon a party of ladies and gentlemen visited the ship which was decorated for the occasion. Flags of all nations were hung around the quarter deck, and dancing commenced at an early hour and continued until late in the evening when the party broke up much pleased with their visit to "old Ironsides".

On the morning of the 20th we took leave of our kind friends in Fayal, weighed anchor and stood out to sea. On the whole the four days passed at Orta were productive of much interest and pleasure and will not soon be forgotten by us. Mr Wise described a visit to an extinct Crater which is worthy of a notice. It was about nine miles from the beach. Upon ascending the mountain they came to the cavity six miles around the edge. The bottom was one mile round, and in the centre was a lake of fresh water which had evidently in bygone days been the aperture for the lava to issue when the volcano was in operation. The depth of this cavity was 1700 feet, and that of the lake has never been ascertained, and is said by the inhabitants to be fathomless. Gold fish are sometimes caught in its waters. Men and women were seen around its borders gathering wood, and this immense "corral" furnishes the greatest part

of the fuel consumed on the island. The sides are cultivated and numerous flocks of sheep feed continually upon them. This cavity is said to be the greatest curiosity on the island.

The day after leaving Fayal (31st) we spoke the Am Brig Lycoming from Palermo for Boston. on board of which we put letters for our friends at home. Nothing further occurred until the 24th following when the island of Madeira was in sight at sunrise presenting a most beautiful sight, long to be remembered.

Madeira

At two o'clock on the afternoon of June 24th we came to an anchor in the beautiful bay of Funchal. We found here the Portuguese frigate "Diana" and the English razee "America". The latter ship is the same one that was built by and given to the French Government for a 74 but I think in Boston bay. from them it was taken by the English.

Immediately upon anchoring we received a visit from the health officers, without which we could not remain. The regulations of the Portuguese government relative to ships entering their harbors are very severe, and in Madeira if a vessel should attempt to pass the fort (Low Castle) she would be fired into. A salute was fired as at Fayal in honor of the Portuguese flag. which was returned gun for gun.

I visited the shore next morning and strolled over the town charmed at every step with the beauty and fertility around me. We found through some of the vineyards and paid a visit to the celebrated Convent of St. Clara. Here we saw the nuns pass and repass behind the iron grate, while one of the principal ones handed to us specimens of wax flowers and feather ornaments for which the island is celebrated. I can not give praise to these benevolent ladies for their beauty as no any of them would have made good scarecrows or something else. None appeared young or many over of "a discreet age". Almost every part of the walls was covered with names of those who had visited the convent and with a desire to perpetuate our visit we added ours though we afterward, ascertained that the walls were whitewashed once a year and thus had our labor for nothing. We afterwards paid a visit to the church of our Lady of the mountains and found it much superior in size and beauty to the churches of Fayal. It is about three miles [illegible] which we rode [illegible] to the summit of the mountain where we found the church and convent. The latter [illegible] to the Franciscan friars, as the [illegible] date is never to [illegible]; the latter

we galloped the beggars were behind us, — nothing could shake them off.
We did not meet so many beggars as in the other islands we had visited on the contrary cleanliness was apparent in all around. Industry and enterprise were seen thriving although the old custom of "Lords and serfs" is still continued. I was told that while dealing with the latter class no fears were entertained of being cheated, but with the former a person had to be under canvas to prevent being shaved in some way — not a very great compliment I thought, as it appeared that those who could not read the precepts of our Saviour were far more virtuous in their actions than those who had continually the fear of God before their eyes. I was much pleased with seeing at every fountain we passed little images of the Virgin. The peasant always crossed himself before drinking the water and by this means he was enabled to return thanks for the great blessing conferred upon him and which is denied to many of the surrounding islands. As we approached the church we observed a soldier kneeling upon the steps apparently in deep devotion. We stopped at a most involuntary behest for we felt as though we were upon holy ground, but as the devotee continued his silent prayer we passed on and entered into the church. The awe which I have ever experienced when amidst the images and sculptured ornaments of Catholic worship did not leave me here. As I noticed the old priests passing and repassing — the dark gloom spread around and the shadows cast upon the walls by the tall candles show the altar. I felt humbled and for the moment could heartily down and offered up a prayer to the Most High in this his holy temples. There was here no organ or other instrument of sound wherewith to aid the voice in its lofty supplications. — there was no chair — we worshipped but the poor soldier at the door way — yet my soul was cast down and involuntarily turned in thankfulness to Him who had thus far preserved me from the many surrounding dangers. I left this beautiful little church accompanied by my friends, and we wended our way again into the city. Now passing along a road lined with middle size millions of grapes shortly to be trodden into wine, and again opening upon some distant view of the sublime and almost lovely mountains for which Madeira is so celebrated. Funchal, the chief place of the island is certainly one of the most beautiful spots I have ever had eyes upon. It contains from 30 to 40,000 inhabitants. The streets are most regular, wider, neater and cleaner than those in Fayal. The houses also are better and handsomer. The former classes dress neater and are more industrious. The laborers wear a very small cap, which hardly

over the top of the head but seconds in plait about quiches looking something like a foolscap of schoolboy days. The trousers are all gathered in at the knees, above which the short apparatus sits like a bag, which below the leg is bare. On the evening of the 27th a ball was given at the Consuls, and the company were rather many. All passed off pleasantly and we left about early hours in the morning. I never was in a more hospitable place. On the 29th we were obliged to leave our kind and new made friends from whom we parted reluctantly. At 3 P.M. we weighed anchor and stood out to sea; on the morning of July 1st. the Peak of Teneriffe was visible and shortly afterwards the whole island.

Teneriffe.

at 3 o'clock on the afternoon of July 1. we anchored in the harbour of "Santa Cruz" after a passage of only two days from our last port. I was not so much pleased with my visit here as at the other islands. Although Santa Cruz has evidently been a place of great importance, its importance is fast diminishing now. There is not that material to be seen which it has been my pleasure hereafter to describe. Poverty stares one in the face even upon landing at the mole, and I never before witnessed so much misery as at this place. Beggar women with sick children, old men, blind as well as lame are seated about the streets & crave alms by professions who live upon the charity of the stranger, and if not appeased do not hesitate to abuse deep and long. One has a fear of touching or even approaching these people as leprosy or some disease perhaps may reward him for his benevolence. I could not help comparing the condition of these poor wretches with that of many in our own country.

I should suppose the city to contain from 20 to 30,000 people. It has a number of large and often dilapidated churches, and an immensely strong fort guards the mouth of the bay to which we were refused admittance, the jealous Spaniards not at all willing to let strangers to view their preparations for war. Plenty of monks are seen strolling about the streets looking pale & their cloaked hats half over their faces, more like robbers than ministers of Christ. A marble monument stands in the centre of the "Plaza de la Constitution" erected to the memory of those who fell in defence of the city. This was barely sufficient as were also those stationed there. I saw in the English Hotel said to be from Devon and considered the best table in the island. On July 4th. was

celebrated in Santa Cruz by firing 21 guns at meridian. The fort also saluted our flag, and the day was closed by a display of rockets, blue fires &c &c. On the 5th the vessels towed the Beagle round to Rio de Janeiro, and the same evening the party of officers who had visited the Peak returned completely exhausted, and never again desirous of performing such an unnecessary journey. They were absent from the ship four days and had traversed 90 miles. After leaving Santa Cruz on horseback they crossed the island to the Port of Orotava where they started afresh and continued riding until within 6 or 8 miles of the summit of the Peak which is supposed to be between 12 and 13000 feet above the level of the sea. They were then obliged to walk and while nearing the top most of the party were taken sick and only with difficulty proceeded on account of the rarefaction of the air. Some of them indeed were unable to turn back but the desire of accomplishing this great undertaking led them on. Few Americans have reached the summit of the Peak while many have attempted it, and by moving little by little our adventurous party stood on the morning of the anniversary of our Independence upon the topmost peak of the mountain. And after the Hon.ble Mr Ussher had recited the declaration they retraced their steps. The naturalist examined with attention the soils, of which from the base of the Peak to its summit there were four different kinds were observed, and the party secured many specimens of lava &c. The soil near the base was found capable of great cultivation while further on above its wild trees and weeds predominate:— higher still the superior of the mountain is composed of a solid pumice while at the very Peak itself nothing vegetates for the rocks are as barren as the palm of one's hand.

It was found dangerous to lie down near the summit on account of steam issued from the ground, and though it was very cold a pit by scraping away the earth four or five inches an immediate change was felt

In Orotava they were shown Humboldt's chair and the workroom at which he used to sit— here also they saw the celebrated "Dragon tree" an object of curiosity to the traveller.

Teneriffe has the most sublime appearance of any island we have seen— the rocks appearing as if thrown together by the hand of nature for the sole purpose of using into her many fanciful shapes they could be arranged— while above all towers the huge and lofty Peak— far above the clouds— as if scorning the hills below it. It was like Majesty itself.

On the 7th inst we weighed anchor and stood out to sea followed by the Beagle. At one o'clock we had a fine view of the Peak which was the last we saw of the far famed island of Teneriffe.

Our passage to Rio de Janeiro

For [illegible] days after leaving [illegible] we were followed by the French ship but on the 11th morning she altered her course and stood away for the coast of [illegible] at the risk [illegible] of [illegible]. Most of this passage we experienced delightful weather and on the 13th spoke the English merchant ship "Lapin" from Calcutta for London and last from St. Helena. A boat visited us in which was an English naval officer who desired to compare chronometers &c. We gave him the information desired also something substantial in the way of Potatoes, Chickens &c. as appearance of scurvy had broken out amongst them. The Lapin had [illegible] a few days before the [illegible] frigate [illegible] which rendered them no assistance and the officer [illegible] [illegible] thing in our country — a [illegible] I thought and mean to be [illegible] as coming from an English [illegible]. On the 22nd inst a man fell overboard, the ship going eight knots at the time. The sea however was smooth and the life-buoy being cut away he was [illegible] in reaching it though not before we were a mile or two ahead. Had not this man been a good swimmer no earthly power could have saved him, and even he himself had despaired of seeing his shipmates again. The cry of "a man overboard" has been so often described by travellers that it were useless to attempt it here, but I must say it must be heard to be fully appreciated.

On the 24th inst we crossed the equator in about longitude 29° and for the amusement of our passengers the time honored ceremony of "crossing the line" was renewed. The evening previous we were [illegible] by the cry of "Neptune's coming — Neptune's coming", and upon looking over the taffrail we saw a large light upon the water that could be seen for a long while. Upon going to the gangway where a large crowd [illegible] a personage was observed coming from the direction of the [illegible] to see the Captain, proclaiming himself one of the sons of the watery god and a true chip of the old block. This fellow whoever he was had so completely disguised himself that only a few on board knew who he was. Upon being presented to the Captain this "imp of the sea" said that his father had commissioned him to deliver a letter to him, and requested an answer as quick as possible as there were many at this [illegible] to enter his domain and time was precious. Permission was given by the Captain with the request that the next morning Father Neptune would make his visit and treat the novices as gently as possible under the

circumstances. His young Godship then left and we soon saw another light depart supposed to be the car of the messenger. All the arrangements had been made among the crew and punctually at nine o'clock, Neptune - his wife, children and attendants to the farthest degree appeared in a car upon the quarter deck. The God detailed his commands and expressed a desire that all who had never before entered his domain should become subject to his law. They were then treated to a glass of good stiff grog and left for the forecastle where a throne had been erected when Neptune himself and crew see the performances. From the gangway to the forecastle a tarpaulin had been suspended full of the "living liquids", at the forward end of which a bench had been raised some four or five feet. Upon this on the green - horn after having been questioned by the God as to his former travels — his face was then lathered with lamp black, tar &c &c — his countenance beautifully, but not very lightly varnished by the iron razors which had they been dignified by the names of some ancient instrument of torture - and his mouth occasionally filled with a portion of the composition. However before he had leisure to think much upon the matter, he was taken by the heels and made to describe a curve in the air alighting nine times out of ten on his head in the body of water. Here he was received by two flesh bears who washed and scrubbed him according to his degree of merit among the crew. He was afterwards told to go about his business. Some of the tyros who had merely come to see a friend forego part made some opposition to their ministers of Neptune — but it was no go — the more they struggled the longer were their heads held under water and their stomachs filled with the fluid. All were made welcome to the entertainment as it ended nothing but a change of clothes. At 12 the decks were cleared and nothing remained of the ceremony but the remembrance.

After crossing the equator until we arrived off Cape Frio nothing of consequence occurred worthy of notice. Our passage was a pleasant one, the weather was fine and the pleasures we enjoyed to experience in Rio de Janeiro added greatly to make us contented with the situations allotted. Evening after evening was passed in viewing the Stars and Magellan clouds and occasionally a meteor with fears over the ship illuminating the deck as it winged its flight thro' the air and affording more food for the seeking mind. On the morning of Dec. 1st a ship was seen standing towards us, and on a near approach she proved to be the U.S.S. Erie. We soon had letters on board of her and after kind inquiries and congratulations had passed among the officers

[illegible] frustrated [illegible] by different causes. The same afternoon [illegible] Tijuca [illegible] the morning the lighthouse [illegible] For several days we had been [illegible] strange [illegible] on account of our stopping to put letters [illegible] the line we soon found to be our old friends the Bureau which had [illegible] from Pernambuco. Thus had we again met upon the [illegible] after an absence of nearly 30 days - probably the same [illegible] not again happen in a lifetime of two vessels meeting each other [illegible] the destination. At midnight we have to [illegible] to enter the harbour of Rio. In the morning the Bureau was [illegible] us and [illegible] under the land. About 8 a light breeze [illegible] up and we [illegible] of the [illegible] but about noon it died away calm [illegible] has the mortification of seeing the Bureau shoot ahead and anchor [illegible] the city [illegible] into the [illegible]. It was found however that we had [illegible] by keeping [illegible] to [illegible] to the [illegible] miles more. The [illegible] Commodore [illegible] was a very [illegible] and amiable [illegible] gentleman, [illegible] [illegible].

Rio de Janeiro

[illegible] we could [illegible] beautiful than the view about Rio upon entering the [illegible]. The bay is a regular basin surrounded by the most [illegible] hills. It is about four miles [illegible] and from ten to twelve long. On the right hand as we [illegible] the [illegible] the city is situated, and on the left the [illegible] [illegible] "Pão Grande", "Peak of the [illegible]" "Corcovado" I see rearing its tall summit far above the others, while the sugar loaf at the entrance of the harbour forms a good land mark for the navigator. The celebrated Organ mountains are situated [illegible] back ground at the upper end of the harbour adding much to the beauty of the scenery. Several ships of war were [illegible] under the city. On visiting the city I was extremely gratified with its [illegible] appearance. The Imperial palace is situated immediately in front of the shipping and is a very large [illegible] looking building. The public square is [illegible] with [illegible] of water [illegible] at a bad [illegible] the slaves make while drawing water. Further on is situated the most beautiful [illegible] in this and one of which [illegible] from every passage. The Museum of Rio is not attractive to any one [illegible] for its beauty of its buildings, but much is due for the great variety of [illegible] that are exhibited in its rooms. Here one can purchase anything [illegible]. The celebrated feather [illegible] is the most delightful [illegible] of interest to the

strangers. Busy girls are constantly employed making flowers de pan the feathers of birds brought from the interior of Brazil and we passed an hour very pleasantly in examining the various manufactures. Further on and in the suburbs of the city we came to the arches of the 'Carcovado' through which the city is supplied with water from the mountains. These are of solid masonry and carry water from the hills to the city. The works of art about this city reflect honor on any European country. We also visited the public gardens where although a dull day - but one playing which in addition to the many beautiful flowers rendered the trees of the place more delightful. I had an opportunity of visiting the Emperors Cathedral, through an interesting and amusing circumstance. This church is attached to the palace so that the family may go into the open air, and of all places of worship. There was none this was the most beautiful. The altar was completely covered with gilt work, and the sides adorned with paintings and images of our Lord, the Virgin Mary and the Apostles. My visit to the Emperors theatre I shall long remember with gratification. The opera was the Barber of Seville to be performed by an Italian company. We purchased tickets to the dress circle from persons in the street, as I knew application at the box office as at home. After first getting into the pit by mistake, as well as walking round the theatre twice or three times in order to find proper entrance the right door is reached. The orchestra as in our country, is not in any way connected with the audience, but is partitioned off, thus making three different apartments - the pit being in the rear. The seats are found to be most comfortable arm chairs. I think I do not exceed the bounds of propriety when I say that this immense building would contain from seven to ten thousand persons. The whole is lighted by one large chandelier suspended from the centre of the ceiling which is richly ornamented with paintings. There are four rows of boxes each containing fifty four seats. Each pair of boxes that open to persons holding the same ticket, are connected in one - each being divided from its neighbor by a partition. By this arrangement the occupants of one box can converse with those in the adjoining boxes without disturbing those around them. The house was crowded at an early hour the evening being the anniversary of Don Pedros marriage and in honor to the festival all gaiety was displayed. The night was very warm, as almost all the year round, and the ladies appeared dressed in white. The Emperor did not arrive until 9 o'clock which caused some delay as the audience became rather loud at the idea of waiting for a box. At last the curtain of his box parted and the space between the orchestra and the pit was filled with

drawn aside and disclosed the Emperor and Empress. Don Pedro was [illegible] with [illegible] he bowed his head in token of respect all the audience remaining standing uncovered. He was followed by the members of his household, who occupied two [illegible] sides of his room. I observed twelve of these noblemen each of which carried four or five pieces of a large service and crown above the centre denoted the royal occupants. When the ceremony had concluded the orchestra struck up [illegible] and immediately the curtains were raised and the whole theatre was discovered to view in a beautiful manner Don Pedro & Empress. In addition to the regular orchestra the Imperial bands were stationed upon the stage. After hearing a portion of the opera which I was much pleased with we returned on board.

During our stay the Prince of Wales (the brother of the Empress) had been created Admiral of the Brazilian fleet and took advantage of the presence of so many vessels of war of different nations to visit them. He is a fine looking man and has the most amiable countenance of any of the great men we have seen in Rio. He is besides a great favorite with the people.

On the 29th of August while casually looking over some Baltimore papers, to my great surprise & grief I found recorded the death of my dear father. I could hardly believe my eyes for it seemed but yesterday that I had left him full of health and spirits though aged. The truth of that passage in the 12th chapter of Ecclesiastes "in the midst of life we are in death". A dear relative, an honest and upright man has gone to that [illegible] from whence no traveller returns, beloved and honored by all who knew him - the idol of his children and grandchildren, and an example worthy of imitation. A long life had been extended to him and he has left behind him a name as pure & unspotted as innocence itself. - The hand of his children will [illegible] the pillow of affliction - God bless them for all his mercies!

[illegible] Rio it is not to be expected that [illegible] with the [illegible] that are connected to make me delighted with the city. However I will endeavor to give some idea of the [illegible] and customs of the people.

Since the abdication of Pedro 1st who is represented as having been a man of [illegible] and strong passions but of many redeeming qualities, the country has been gradually recovering from the effects of his administration though not even now to the degree of tranquility within its interior. The constitution is similar to our own and the people are represented by a [illegible] A large national debt hangs over the country mostly due to [illegible] and held by British owners. The West India has brought England in direct contact with the government of Brazil so much so that the grand duke of [illegible]

for ever free and allowed to be as black as it pleased of the efforts of Great Britain through the world and despite the jealousies. Cargoes of slaves are landed under the very guns of the British defences. If perchance a trader is caught the slaves are placed on board the guns ships there to be treated as by the English servants and to replace for the term of seven fourteen or twenty one years as the case may be. Thus the benevolent power has nothing to endeavour to check slavery, on the contrary its funds are increased by this system of apprenticeship which in itself amounts to slavery. The rapacity or as some call it the humanity of England is felt not only in Brazil but in the Eastern world from which we can account of the late war in China. It is understood that slavery will be the down fall of the prosperity of Brazil there being at the present population 1.800.000 blacks entirely dependent upon them masters for support. Again the climate engenders various cutaneous diseases with the slaves of the population towards the whites are often subject. Slaves seen slaves in Rio with their fingers and toes completely eaten off and consequently perfectly helpless – others without legs and thighs swollen with nothing but the bursting of the skin to tell where they are always depending upon charity and the number is daily increasing. The manners of the Brazilians are not such as to impress a foreigner in their favour. They are suspicious, treacherous and deceitful.

On the 7th of September (the Emperor's birthday) I was favoured with a farewell visit to the ship in which he had passed so many delightful hours. Although he was deeply and visibly affected those who attended on board at last did to him requested that they might see the yards when he left. Accordingly a salute of 21 guns was fired and the sailors shewed their kind feelings in the manner they desired. I question whether any minister to a foreign Court ever experienced more attention and courtesy than did Mr Rose and it is a gratification to know by his conversation and feelings that he appreciated the kindness.

On the 9th I received my first letters from home. It is the throwing my hand and heart [illegible] my heart I felt [illegible] than Queen Victoria. The next morning having completed our duties at sunrise we weighed anchor and stood out to sea bound to the Eastward of Africa.

Departure from Rio

The day of our departure (Sunday) was very pleasant and we enjoyed delightful weather for some days accompanied with [illegible]. On the 13th we saw a few Cape Pigeons; this bird resembles the Mother Pigeon of our country in shape but not in colour

it had been white and the wings brown with white spots. On the 16th I saw for the first time Albatross. They had a very large spread of wing and from being so near seemed to measure 14 feet. The young are brown while the old are white with dusky spots. In the air as well as upon the water they look heavy and inactive, suggestive of great age. The ship was hove to and numbers tried hard to get up to the food that was thrown overboard. A hook was baited with a piece of fat pork and in a few minutes we caught one and safely landed him upon deck. For a little while the gloomy bird was quite savage and vainly endeavored to lift himself from the deck. It was rather dangerous to go near him, as he darted his long bill with considerable effect. Nothing can be seen round but the eye of this monster, it was large and black and in color like melted pitch. Sailors generally have a great mercy to an Albatross that calmly with their ancient manners circles on the wing. I have seen hooks cut off the feet of these birds and then thrown into the sea. The little stormy Petrel is the only wanderer I noticed from Salisbury.

On the 19th we saw Penguin Bank to which this bird might be thought worthy of a place here, but it was interesting being the termination of a long passage. The following two days we were again becalmed making scarcely five miles. The sails flapping, the rolling of the sea and the disagreeable working of the ship all combine to render this part of a voyage extremely unpleasant. A second gale, during night on the 22nd, with beautiful weather alters the face of things. All are busy and the excitement the monotony of a few hours away and gives pleasure to the whole ship's company. The only novelty I saw in catching a shark about six feet in length. He was hooked in near the stern, on the quarter deck and was towed forward by the sailors who soon showed their activity to the ladies by cutting him up in short pieces like and throwing it overboard. I have seen the shark's heart beat palpitating from his body for a few minutes to the astonishment of the spectators.

On the afternoon of the 28th the Isle of Tristan d'Acunha was in sight and on approaching the Brig Bengal which upon being boarded proved to be the Lord Elden from London for Bombay. She had been in attempting to reach the land but unfortunately a heavy surge upon the shore which is necessary to a heavy gale which lasted until the 31st when we again stood on our course. During the harmony of the gale the ship lay to under the main top sail and frequently nothing but top sails.

A account of the Island of Tristan d'Acunha may not prove uninteresting as but few are acquainted with its location or circumstances.

The Tristan d'Acunha group as it is generally called is situated in the South Atlantic and consists of the islands

Inaccessible. Nightingale and Tristan d'Acunha the latter of which is the largest and most fertile to be met with in the whole of the Atlantic ocean. These islands are the resort of numerous whales and other cetaceous animals. Tristan d'Acunha has an excellent road and is very easy of access. The land rises gradually from the sea shore and is finely diversified with hill and dale. Its range is entirely clothed and it is supposed to be capable of great cultivation though at present it is of little fertility except in the valleys. Potatoes and vegetables are raised in abundance and wild hogs and goats are plenty. The harbours however are difficult of access. The remaining islands of the group are entirely barren and inaccessible and therefore [illegible] navigation. [illegible] Tristan d'Acunha to prepare for sailing and did not leave it more than two years. When Napoleon was sent to St Helena the English formed a naval station upon this island but it was afterwards discontinued and transfered to Ascension where it remains. The next account of this island is in 1821 when the ship "Blenden Hall" from London for Bombay was wrecked on Inaccessible. When the crew and passengers remained [illegible] until they arrived at Tristan d'Acunha in a boat made from the wreck. On this island they [illegible] Governor Glass as he was called treated them in a hospitable manner until the 9th of January 1822 and removed them to the Cape of Good Hope. One of the passengers however, a man who [illegible] remained with the colony and was removed by Governor Glass shortly after this in the year 1824 when an English ship of war [illegible] touched at the island to make observations and Augustus Earle a passenger obtained permission to visit the island but remaining too long the ship was forced to proceed to sea without him. He relates that he found the colony in a flourishing condition and that it was to this island [illegible] of the English Navy before mentioned. Vegetables of all kinds, hogs, goats &c were found in great abundance. Hospitality to a stranger was [illegible] and on arriving at the island he was received with great hospitality [illegible] In 1829 another vessel stopped there and reported the colony to have increased and in a healthy condition – the children remarkably free from cutaneous diseases which occur in more thickly settled places. Governor Glass at that period was still living and has undoubtedly been the means of saving many of his fellow creatures from a watery grave as all hail the ships of nations on the [illegible] desolate island. I had congratulated myself upon being the

[illegible] the world. but gales at this season of the year are so frequent in this vicinity [illegible] The interesting colony is under British protection.

We had very pleasant weather until our arrival off the Cape of Good Hope on the night of [illegible] when we experienced a heavy gale accompanied by rain. We lay to under the lee of the land all night & the next day. The ship [illegible] off the Cape in good weather and nothing unusual occurred until the day [illegible] "breakers ahead" but which proved to be grounding caused by the reflection of the waves upon the rocks. Near the Cape there are [illegible] which has from time to time been seen by various vessels, and in consequence of which the Telemaque was hailed the first time she passed it a large spot off the point of the Cape is called the Telemaque shoals. This vessel passed in [illegible] the lighthouse & passengers heard of the [illegible] first land [illegible] the [illegible] Cape. The danger was apparent as [illegible] that the [illegible] 102 to (from London [illegible] seen distance [illegible] above [illegible] In 1796. 1809 and [illegible] English and [illegible] appearances and soundings of 90 to 40 fathoms were said to have been taken. The English [illegible] the matter [illegible] taken by [illegible] which as afterwards proved [illegible] that [illegible] The sea at this [illegible] Cape [illegible] appearance [illegible] caused by the clouds reflecting the rays of the sun at certain angles and again the great quantity of animal [illegible] the shoals [illegible] the name. Rocks have been known to pass over the dead body of a whale and magnify [illegible] into a large island with inhabitants. From [illegible] the Telemaque shoals [illegible] of the above origin as the fact of its non-existence is so completely settled in the minds of navigators. We saw nothing of it. Very [illegible] either above which the sea is often so heavy [illegible] that [illegible] experiment again was especially forbid. The fleet of vessels [illegible] off the Cape daily through the [illegible] time for a way from England [illegible] established. Captain Ormis the distinguished navigator [illegible] that shortly before going into Simons Bay he and two officers and [illegible] directly [illegible] one of the vessels of his squadron (the Bonita) [illegible] was at that

time full 250 miles from them. He accounts for this sight upon the principle of refraction a subject upon which Dr. Brewster in his "natural magic" extensively dilates.

Nothing of interest occurred after we passed the Capes until we sighted the Island of Bermuda on the morning of Oct. 15th. The day was clear and pleasant and we were overlooking with standing sail, when we left Hampton Roads, only four days. We were in fact in sight of the extreme eastern shore of Bermuda, both ends of the island being plainly discernible. The land appeared barren and dreary though in the back ground and immediately adjacent to the town of St. Augustine's Bay was very pretty. Numerous cedars of Bermuda's boast are scattered over the hills and valleys and a handsome town is situated at the head of a little bay about three miles from shore.

St. Augustine's Bay

We soon had the pleasure of shaking some of the natives by the hand, who evidently [illegible] their visit to us. The principal were Prince Green the owner of "Devil rock", John Green [illegible] Prince Green as he styled himself, John Stout his treasurer, Captain Hinson and Captain Trott. These are the names the whalers and [illegible] by which they are known. Prince Green appeared to be the great man of the party. He was dressed in a red jacket, pair of white pantaloons which [illegible] skin, an old beaver and sail-cloth coat, a navy cap with an old gold band and a pair of [illegible] epaulets. His age was about fifty. John Green the Purser was dressed in the most original style possible. Having but one eye and keeping that [illegible] continually in motion he appeared [illegible] the old tattered waistcoat, a sailor's hat, one rusty epaulet and some strips of cotton gracefully arranged [illegible] To crown the whole he had an American eagle breast pin and his vest behind. He [illegible] but strips of yellow nankeen from the elbows to the hips and fastened with [illegible] John Stout was the interpreter and a portly handsome man he was. They soon found their way into the storage where they emerged complaining in a most [illegible] manner. The poor fellows who came ashore later had managed to secure a shirt and a pair of drawers the latter of which set so tight to their legs that [illegible] their actions. In addition he was presented with the crown of Neptune used in crossing the line. Their appearance [illegible] all brought letters of recommendation from the different vessels that lay in the bay, one of which was signed by [illegible]

be a good vessel and not trustworthy. It must have done us good heart to see with what look of self complacency the rigging was regarded from the fore sheet station and of the vessels astern of the Admiral.

I visited the town several times and was well pleased with what I saw. The people are not only beggars but robbers as I soon found from the loss of my [illegible] Cottons buttons glass bottles beads cloth were the articles for which they trade. No cultivation is seen here and I shall judge the natives to be lazy and filthy. They live in huts no higher than themselves which they are obliged to leave on all fours like pigs and the habitations seem to be the abodes of those creatures than those of human beings. The women many of them were in a dirty state and their faces tattooed [illegible] but the men go in puris naturalibus. The water is here of a reddish colour thick and muddy the wood is of the best. We found plenty of bananas growing at the watering place. Dartmouth river many of which we gathered and took to the ship and made a most delicious drink. The exports from this place consist of ivory and dollars, the latter of which we received from whalers for refreshments &c to the Isle of France. Two French vessels were in the harbour during our stay.

On the 20th we left Mozambique for the port of Mozambique. The entrance of the bay we found H.B. no 12 Maj. Depths found 5 fathoms water. The best passage over to the Island of Ybuera and on the morning of the 25th we left the land. The Island of Mozambique is low and appeared similar to Madagascar but gave more evidence of fertility. After beating about the coast till evening we anchored in the port of Mozambique about 3 miles distance from the island of Mozambique. The next morning on boarding a canoe we were not deeming it safe to go up to the island we came to an anchor about five miles from it. An officer came off to us who welcomed us and in a few hours his return was declined.

Mozambique

On the morning of the 27th I made a visit to the city which pleased me much not for the beauty of the buildings but for the attack it presented of former Portuguese greatness. The city is first approached by a [illegible] fortress [illegible] which no ship can pass; here you will mark the outlines of the shores and further on the delapidated remains of a palace which speak in language too plain to be misunderstood of the former greatness of Portugal. The [illegible] of the island of which the city is composed is capable of resisting [illegible] and [illegible] the interior harbour and population of the surrounding coast. It was built in 1511 and only the whole of the materials of which it is composed

brought from Europe. The Governor's palace is the principal building and [illegible] of the Europeans. Near it stands a solid pier, which is [illegible] in front of the buildings are partly facing the ground. There are also [illegible] trees and a few shrubs adorning the city. The [illegible] of the [illegible] with the [illegible] and the [illegible] of the [illegible] upon them. What could have induced the Portuguese to make a settlement in this unhealthy and [illegible] climate, I cannot conceive, unless it was the idea that they had discovered the Eldorado. Immense quantities of slaves are annually brought from this island to Europe who are brought from the interior of Africa and sold here to this day. Upon the arrival of the white traders in the interior they [illegible] Part the season of Mozambique as a fashionable resort. Its port is [illegible] entrance, and the trade formerly carried to this place, is now extinct [illegible] especially by the settlement of the Americans on the Cape of Good Hope to this country. [illegible] of its greatest causes of [illegible] or the disappearance of many of the European fevers. These causes combined seem to render Mozambique [illegible] the unhealthy places along the eastern coast. The enterprise of the Portuguese Government has dragged its trade into other hands, and this island can only be [illegible] a vivid picture of the [illegible] still [illegible] a part capable of maintaining itself for [illegible] or 2 years. Like the colonies in the Pacific, it cannot defend itself. Since [illegible] from Portugal the days of its prosperity are [illegible] and the Europeans no longer call [illegible] the first of nations in the time of Vasco de Gama.

The commerce of the W. Indies and Mozambique is still sustained by a [illegible] which is carried on between the Portuguese with Salem and New York. The exports are [illegible] dye woods, gums, [illegible] for which are received in exchange goods. [illegible] we weighed anchor and stood out to sea. On the morning of the 24th we saw the Magellanic clouds, a beautiful meteor, entirely different from the shooting stars in shape and color. The sky was clear, the moon in its full and the horizon entirely free. The meteor had the appearance of a large [illegible] light, tinged with red. When first observed it was near the ship but descended and disappeared near the edge of the horizon. In its progress it lighted up the whole rigging of the ship, and in fact was a beautiful though [illegible] sight.

On the 31st inst we saw land and the next day we anchored in the Bay of Angoxa, Island of [illegible]. Immediately put off from

the land which was the Government of Iran who politely tendered us all the most courteous attention. Each grew as though they had been used to receiving strangers all their lives.

Majunga

This bay is one of the principal business places on the western side of Madagascar and is principally inhabited by Malagasy, Arabs and Hindoos the latter class being merchants. We also found an American here by the name of Marks who acts as agent for several Salem vessels who regularly trade at this place for hides horns and other articles giving in exchange domestics, jewelry &c &c.

The town of Bembatooka a short distance up the bay is a place of great importance but owing to the proximity of Majunga to the sea it has become of little consequence. Captain Owens who surveyed around the island some 20 years since states that several Americans were then engaged in fishing but this branch of trade has ceased. Bembatooka bay comprises the whole inlet from the sea and extends a considerable distance inland. It has several beautiful harbours and is surrounded with delightful scenery.

The inhabitants of this part of the island are far more civilized and educated than those we had previously seen at St. Augustine Bay. They are mahometans, can read and write (some of them) and have a regular currency as far as the irregular method of cutting dollars can warrant the use of the term. A considerable trade is carried on with the Portuguese merchants (natives) who generally remain a year in Madagascar. At the expiration of this period another party arrives from Zanzibar or India and the former return to their families. They often ascend the river to Tananarivo the capital of the kingdom, the residence of the queen, and there dispose of their goods. The American trade carried on here is lucrative and the character of our countrymen engaged in it is unexceptionable. Upon our departure we saluted the Queen of Madagascar with 7 guns which was returned by the fort on shore. This fort in the centre of the town has a battery of nine pounders and a native garrison. Its extent is very large and its interior is formed into streets which are lined with huts for the soldiery thus forming the appearance of a town. The officers have uniforms but the rest are as various in color as the rainbow, some being English, others French and Americans. It is to be regretted that the duty is high it being 10 per cent on both imports and exports though the Government have promised to decrease it. American cottons are the only domestics used at Majunga being preferred by the natives on account of cheapness and durability.

The month of November on this part of Madagascar answers to our spring, as they were just preparing to plant, waiting only for the rains to moisten the earth. Sickness does not appear to prevail to any great extent. A respectable Hindoo informed us that during a stay of 15 years in Majunga he had been ill but once and then only for a short time as he quickly applied the old but certain remedy of an emetic. He assigned an excellent reason for sickness occurring - the land breezes from the land from the opening of spring blowing over the low lands carry with them the exhalations causing a malaria to spring up which at times proves destructive to the natives who are like all ignorant people unmindful of their health. While at anchor in Majunga we observed much lightning but little thunder the former being extremely vivid. In the course of my wanderings about the town I happened upon the execution ground which was situated not far from the beach. Here I beheld an awful evidence that crime does not go unpunished among these islanders. There were three poles sticking in the ground upon one of which was a skull while two similar remnants of mortality lay scattered upon the earth. They appeared to have remained there but a few months, as the hair was yet visible as well as a portion of the internal matter. The teeth were sound, and the most perfect I ever beheld. — the scalp even of the one upon the stick had not decayed, and it had the appearance of being able for some time yet to frighten or disgust the stranger. The two skulls that lay upon the ground were smuggled on board the ship and will probably adorn the studio of some young gentleman at the termination of the cruise. It appears that these were the remains of three natives who had set fire to the store house of the American Agent, their bodies having been burned. On the morning of the 5th of November we got underway and stood along the coast to the northwards, and on the afternoon of the 7th we anchored off the island of "Nos-Beh".

Nos-Beh

The Constitution claims the merit of being the first American man of war that has visited the above island and Majunga. The former beautiful spot lies at the mouth of Passandava Bay and is about twelve miles in length by four or five in breadth. It is of volcanic origin and bears a strong resemblance to some of the Western islands differing only in its want of cultivation. This island together with Mayotta and St. Mary's have been for some time under the control of the French Government who have stocked them with soldiers from the Isle of Bourbon. The Sakalava tribe to whom

this main island belonged had refused to acknowledge the sovereignty of the present Queen and the French Government taking advantage of the disorganized state of the country purchased about five years since for a small quantity of fire-arms. Ever since that period their efforts have been to effect the civilization of the Sakalavas but I doubt from what I observed if they will succeed. There is a fine fort upon the island and a guard ship is always stationed in the bay. This appears to be but one step of the French towards obtaining a strong foothold on the mainland.

There are a number of Arabs residing here who have formed a village a short distance from the settlement, they are entirely inoffensive, troubling no one and carrying on a considerable trade by means of a small vessel called a "dow" with Zanzibar and other ports on the African coast. Many Hindoos also reside here engaged in petty commerce. It is said that the entire island of Nossi Be contains several thousand inhabitants most of whom are Sakalavas who are beginning to feel that their bargain was a bad one. The French by their despotic manner towards the natives have gained their hatred and the object of that Government which is to obtain possession of the island of Madagascar, will undoubtedly be defeated. The island of Anjouan on the west side (one of the Comoro group) and Mayotta on the east together with Nossi Be have been well fortified for any emergency. The Americans have an regular trade at this place the right is daily becoming of more importance to our mercantile interests as many of our Whaling vessels put in here to refresh. The climate appears to resemble that of a tropical government should be such. The article of rice is the only export of what large quantities are sent to Bombay in exchange for light cottons and articles of domestic consumption. Springs of pure water are found in great abundance along the sides of the mountains and a vessel drawing 24 feet can anchor within two cables lengths of the shore in entire safety. We did not find that provisions were as plenty as we had been led to expect. Having passed a very pleasant visit we weighed anchor on the 12th inst and stood out to sea.

There is generally but little known of as much as entirely for the wealth and fertile island of Madagascar, its resources, government and character of the people. It is only a few years past that an Government has manifested its authority and it is a matter of interest merely while the English and French have known it long and the best accounts show that the Malays and Arabs had trade with it from time immemorial. In the year 1506 the celebrated navigator Lorenco Almeyda came to and named it the isle of St. Laurence. Shortly after the Portuguese Government threw in the knights of its prosperity as a mercantile power and the engager Tristan d'Acunha to sail around it and to observe its inhabitants

commerce &c. Its proximity to the coast of Africa of which it is supposed to have formed a part for years rendered it an object of desire to several of the European powers who have strived by introducing Christianity and extending civilization among the natives to become possessed of it. It is about 840 miles in length and runs from N. to S.W. It has a variety of fine harbours and is surrounded by many small islands. It produces in great abundance gums, indigo, rice and the usual articles of a tropical clime. Moreover it has been supposed to be the Cerne mentioned by Pliny and many argue that it never constituted the part of the mainland as it contains many animals plants &c unknown in Africa. Many of the prevalent on the mainland are not found in Madagascar — a singular fact if it could be proven to have been once joined. There is supposed to have been no regular government existing here until within a few years past. Radama, called by some the Napoleon of Madagascar, succeeded in subjecting many of the tribes and forming a despotic government. The Sakalavas yet remain unconquered, and the Ovas or proper natives of Majunga were among the last to acknowledge sovereignty. Radama after effecting so much turned his attention to the wants of his subjects and allowed foreigners considerable privileges. The English obtained great favors and even established schools, churches &c at the capital "Tananarivo" receiving therefrom the protection of his majesty. They introduced artizans from England who instructed the native youths. Everything flourished — many of the people were baptized in the Christian faith and Radama exerted himself in striving to introduce his people to use those powers and capabilities which he knew they possessed. A strong party however was raised against the English at the head of which was the present Queen Ranavalomanjaka, the wife of Radama. This exalted monarch who had never been swayed by any of his family was favored by the Queen in 1828 who immediately ascended the throne. One of her first acts was to expel the English and another to return publicly to the religion of her fathers. Thousands of natives were executed who had embraced the Christian faith and every effort was used to break down the improvements of the former monarch. One of the native officers at Majunga told us that he was a Christian and had been taught by the English missionaries at the capital. His worship was performed in secret and there never was a Bible in the hands of Sakalava more in dread of his life than this poor native. Sometime previous to our arrival his brother at Tananarivo had been discovered praying in his room — he was imprisoned — tried for the offence of being a Christian, convicted and torn in pieces. Such is the policy of the present Queen, a woman of talents who in a good cause would do honor to any country. At the time of our arrival to "Port Leh" several French

[illegible] Madagascar [illegible] the capital [illegible] whether agents of their government [illegible] Travers is evidently striving [illegible] Madagascar [illegible] position [illegible] Madamas by the English.

Much of the interior of the east and [illegible] island remains unexplored but the parts of which we have knowledge leads to the belief that Madagascar [illegible] of [illegible] importance. The inhabitants are Pagans though a few of the people at the western coast are Mahometans having had considerable intercourse with the Arabs from Zanzibar. Their complexion, characters &c differ [illegible] probably mixed with Arabian or Christian blood) being nearly white, while others [illegible] complexion and color of the negro. At St Augustine and Ros Bob the natives of the Zakalava tribes being much darker and more ferocious and cruel than the Hovas who resemble Arabs in color. The Zakalavas wear the hair plaited while the Hovas do not. The people at St Augustine also adhere to circumcision. Since the days of the abbe Rochon who established his [illegible] to Madagascar in the year 17- a wide field of conjecture has been opened which has been in a measure traversed by a later writer - Flacourt an English missionary who resided at the capital in the time of Ranavalona. He often made excursions into the country and may therefore be considered [illegible] authority upon matters relating to the customs and manners of the people. But upon the history of the country prior to 1506 he is as much at a loss as [illegible]. It is supposed by some that Marco Polo the Venetian navigator visited the island in his accounts corresponds in a degree with the observations of recent [illegible]. It is evident that Rochon had in mind the great importance that Madagascar would become as he advised all nations to cultivate a friendly intercourse with the natives. He however looked upon the island as the [illegible] property of Great Britain. It is said that seamen [illegible] the [illegible] from the resort of pirates and it is even affirmed that Captain Kidd had possession of his money and often rendezvoused at St Augustine

After a very pleasant passage of six days we arrived at Zanzibar on the 11th June 1st which we will now turn our attention.

Zanzibar

This island is about 40 miles in length and 10 in breadth and is situated about 25 miles from the coast of Africa. The eastern side or that bounding on the open sea is formed of coral rock and extends from 4 to 6 miles out. The western side is [illegible] as a beautiful sandy beach and it is here that the Arab [illegible] is fixed. The appearance of Zanzibar

a low and level but the wooded scenery was made up by the sight of the numerous groups of coco-nut trees. The harbour is extremely beautiful and large. Hardly had we dropped anchor before the Sultan of Muscat who runs the island and at present resides there began to evince the sincerity of his professions towards the United States by sending a large present of sheep, hens fruit &c to the officers. This was continued every day during our visit and proved acceptable. His Sovereign who is represented as being a person of character and information invited the officers on the 20th to a dinner at his palace. Accordingly at the appointed time a party left the ship accompanied by the Consul Mr. G. Waters Esq. We were received at the gate of the palace by the Sultan in person accompanied by his sons and grandsons. I was agreeably disappointed with my visit. The Imaum was a noble looking old man about sixty years of age. His beard which descended half way down his breast was gray and his dress which was very plain but neat differed little from those of the chiefs around him. He shook hands with each of the officers and appeared glad to see them. He then led the way into the dining room which was plainly furnished and hung around with European plates of naval actions. After a few words of congratulation had been spoken which were faithfully interpreted by one of his chief officers we sat down to the feast. Our host himself did not eat with us or even sit at the same table as such an act on the part of a good Mussulman does not accord with principles laid down in the Koran. The numerous of the household waited upon us. It is almost useless to attempt a description of this dinner. So original in its arrangements and so illustrative of the hospitality of the Sultan. Plates were piled upon plates so that the table literally groaned with the weight of the viands. There roasted goats and two sheep smothered with rice formed the substantial items and the various dishes of fowls ducks &c were numberless. Our little company consisted of twelve and there certainly was enough for one ships crew. It would be useless to enumerate the different kinds of fruit and pastry that succeeded the sumptuous feast. Instead of water each guest had beside his plate a decanter of Sherbet a drink formed of rose water and honey clear as crystal and extremely palatable. The interpreter called it "mohammedan grog" but I much doubt whether this is the most harmless drink they use. On rising we arose from the table gratified with the distinction conferred upon us. and bidding His Highness adieu strolled for an hour or two through the palace grounds, which during us we often caught a glimpse of some of the females of the harem

We were attracted to the windows of the palace by that insatiable curiosity which leads many one in confinement to seek something new. Their faces were invariably veiled with white cloths and we could not judge of their charms. We walked through numerous groves of cocoa nut trees - and visited the clear fountains from which the Sultan derives a yearly revenue of 100 000 dollars. Pine apples are also met with in great abundance. The following day our Commander in Chief accompanied by a number of officers had an official visit to the Imaum. All were kindly received and His Highness in his remarks evinced a strong partiality for the Americans and a wish for the prosperity of our government. It is said that he is displeased with England and France for having taken possession of some islands in the Mozambique. There are a few Americans residing at Zanzibar who carry on a lucrative trade with Salem in the articles of ivory gums &c. Though the inhabitants are mostly Arabs. Indian men and negroes, the two latter classes however compose the floating population. The trade is mostly with the ports of Bombay, many of whom are wealthy and own vessels running from Bombay, Mozambique &c. The streets are narrow and dirty but the shops are extremely clean. Many of the old forts built by the Portuguese are still in existence and add a quite a romantic appearance to the scenery from the harbour. It is an interesting sight to observe the different classes of people as they are seen in every day life. First, as owner of the soil, comes the Arab not with a supplicating look and down cast eye, but walking proud and erect, his turban with a gold fold on it, his robe neatly but flowing and by his side that servant of his race - the cringing. The Banian comes next who is known by his sallow complexion, his white robe and large turban; - not a muscle of his face moves as he weighs a few grains of rice more or less of the commodity around him. The quick flashes of his eyes and the almost wicked though quick expression of his countenance would lead a stranger to suppose that he was brooding over the downfall of his race or meditating a deed of violence. Yet notwithstanding these outward signs of danger the Banian will harm no one, not even a fly. His religion teaches him to spare the humblest of Gods creatures and he follows it to the letter. - not one mouthful of flesh has ever pressed his lips. With all the good and good points of our Banian friend before us the Christian cannot exalt the Banian in his estimation to the first creatures.

The next person of interest is the Hindoo. Such a man as he is called. His personage is just the reverse of the Banians in color, action and dress. He is generally distinguished by a small cap or turban and his peculiarly shaped slippers. He has also a man of supplication in his manner

d is in fact an Arab. It Arabs what a few formerly were among Christians. When he [illegible] dwelling he chose the most secret place and among to get as far as possible from the gaze of [illegible] who attracts the attention of almost everyone is the Parsee - the Persian or fire worshipper of India. Without the fawning and cringing manners of the Hindoo or the motionless countenance of the Banian the Parsee stands pre-eminently among the inhabitants of the east. His long white robe and fur cap as well as extreme neatness will at once attract the notice of even a careless man. His manners are plain and unostentatious and he never intrudes himself where his presence is not wanted. He possesses qualifications that [illegible] to the Christian and is the only native of India [illegible] entitled to confidence.

The negro here as in all other slave marts is a miserable and unfortunate being. No one pities him - no one feels for him except the stranger who has not the means of assisting him. A tear will be bestowed by everyone who reflects upon the degraded condition of his fellow being. Such are the people of Zanzibar now and such they were at the time of its settlement by Europeans.

This fertile island is undoubtedly the most profitable of the possessions of the Imaum of Muscat. It has the most foreign trade three fourths of which is in the hands of the American. When the wants of [illegible] and Cutch shall have ceased till then remain its staples Ivory and Cloves. The latter was introduced about 15 years since by the present Sultan who already realizes a handsome income therefrom. Sugar cane grows abundantly and of superior quality.

I will close my account of this beautiful spot by the relation of a couple of facts related to me by an American resident. One of the laws of the Koran is "blood for blood". A short time before my arrival an Arab of some distinction who was engaged in some trifling altercation had been stabbed. He died of the wound - his murderer was discovered and taken before the Sultan for trial. Then the brother of the murdered man claimed him as he said his mind would not be at ease until he had killed him in the same manner that the prisoner had murdered his brother. He cited the Koran for authority and the Sultan decreed the prisoner to him for execution. The family of the prisoner endeavored by offering a sum of money sufficient to render one independent on Zanzibar to avert the threatened doom but were unsuccessful. After the determination of the brother of the murdered man. The captive was taken to the beach where his victim had suffered - then stretched upon his back, his arms and feet being held by "friends" of the executioner who rather than forego his revenge stabbed the prostrate man three times to the

heard. It is disconsolate friends then bore his body homeward.

The Imaum's power over his subjects was evinced in a little incident that occurred during our visit. He had sent his officer one morning to the market to buy fruit &c for the customary present to our ship. On arriving there he found that the best articles had been sold and a poor unlucky Arab was the purchaser. One friend stepped up to him seized the fruit and bade him begone about his business. But the Arab averse to such a summary mode of proceeding endeavored to recover his property. "It is for the American ship" said our friend and the Sultan. His Highness has ordered me to get the best in the market. The disappointed Arab shrunk back at hearing this while our friend quietly walked away with his spoils which thanks to His Highness we shortly paid courtly for.

In the afternoon of the 26th we weighed anchor and stood out to sea but anchored off the island. The next morning we stood out to sea and for Sumatra.

On the morning of Nov 28 we came within sight of "Latham's Island" — and anchored at 10 a.m within two miles. A boat was sent on shore for the purpose of ascertaining if Guano could be procured which in a short time returned with a few bags of the article and some strange birds one of which resembled the Eider duck. The island was covered with guano to some depth, and thousands of birds hovered over it. It is about a quarter of a mile in length, is rocky on the eastern and sandy on the west side. Its formation is coral. The birds did not welcome our visit and several of the men were wounded in the hands by them. When a gun was fired they appeared crazy. This island is 310 miles from Anjeer and was discovered in 1730 by the Eng East India Ship "Latham". We have understood that the English have taken possession of it for the purpose of procuring the guano. At 12 we weighed anchor and stood on our course.

Dec 6th. The weather is beautiful and I am seated at the cabin front enjoying the delightful breeze. The thermometer is 82° in the shade. A fine trade is blowing along over the Indian Ocean and we are happy at the idea of soon visiting new scenes and seeing new faces. The following description of a day at sea which I have at times written may not prove uninteresting. — At daylight the watch is called, decks are washed and swept by 4 o'clock. At that hour all the men are turned out and their hammocks, clothes &c neatly rolled. At 8 o'clock all hands breakfast and at nine the crew are mustered at the guns. One or two divisions exercise at the great guns and three in

rink, the whole ship's company execute the manœuvres incident to a vessel's going into action. Upon such an occasion it is amusing to see with what joy the men enter into the affair. Boarders are called to repel boarders - the [illegible] really strike at nothing and cutlasses are used in an alarming manner, - the imaginary enemies are driven off and all return to their stations. At 10 everything is cleared away, the Carpenters are at work on the [illegible] side of the gun deck, and the Armorer at his forge - and the regular routine of duty commences. The watch below are sleeping, reading or mending their old clothes, the marines are scrubbing up their small arms to make a good appearance at the Cabin door, and almost every one is employed. At 12 an observation is taken by the Master and Midshipmen, and the ship's company get their dinner. At two and three o'clock P.M. - the officers dine, and the afternoon is passed amongst the crew as was the forenoon. At 4 o'clock the crew are again mustered at quarters when the days work may be considered completed. In the evening the officers read, write, play chess &c &c while the sailors are spinning long yarns or dancing as the case may be. Thus time flies away quickly. Sunday is however the most interesting day of the week. If pleasant all work is suspended - the decks have received an extra scrubbing and the brass work an extra polish. The men are inspected by the Captain, divine service is performed and all enjoy this day of rest.

Decr 18th We have now been 120 days in the tropics and [illegible] upon the African coast and have not lost a man. I do not think a similar case can be found when a ship of the size of the Constitution having 459 persons on board and cruising so long and in such climates has met with the above favorable result.

Since leaving Rio the ship has been painted lead colour with a red streak rendering the ship cooler, both inside and out, a degree of comfort pervades the gun and berth decks very acceptable to the sick and rarely met with in an East India cruise. During the hottest weather it is almost impossible to bear one's hand upon the black hammock clothe and walking in the sun with the thermometer at 140° for days and days is not very pleasant.

- Our first burial at Sea. - On the morning of Decr 20. a seaman by name of Wester was found dead on the berth deck. He had been under the doctors charge but a few days. This is our first death, and as death is at any time an unwelcome visitor, his presence was severely felt amongst us wanderers in the Indian Ocean. We had been spared

so near that we almost cherished a hope that this "ruthless destroyer" would have passed us by. The ceremony of reading the burial service was performed by our Captain in an impressive manner. There is something particularly solemn in the call of "all hands bury the dead". The gathering of the crew to the gangway desirous of paying the last respects to the remains of their shipmate — the sight of the body with the American jack upon it — the colours at half mast — all tend for a while at least to calm the raging passions and induce holy reflections. The splash of the body into the water creates a sensation in the bosom of everyone — but I will not dwell upon a scene hard to be described.

Dec 22nd. Today another of our band, Christian Tetler, a German was called from this world. He had been sick for some time and his son attended him faithfully; his conduct has been noticed by all on board. Two days since the Captain turned the forward cabin into a hospital for the sick, thus rendering the situation of many more comfortable than it would otherwise have been. Such acts of kindness from a Commander tend to cheer the minds of the sick and render them more contented.

Dec 25th. This evening a comet is visible in the South West, near the edge of the horizon.

On the 1st January 1845 the high lands of Sumatra are visible, but there is little prospect of anchoring today. On the afternoon of the following day being about 10 miles from land a native Proa came to us, but upon observing that our ship was a fighting character she endeavored to withdraw. We hoisted our colours, also the white flag — an emblem of our peaceful intentions, but even all this had no effect. We fired a blank cartridge, two, three — still she kept on. A 32 pounder was then thrown across the bows when her sails were instantly lowered. We took the Proa in tow.

Quallah Battoo

On the morning of January 3rd we anchored off the above town, lately so celebrated for its troubles with our government. We found the ship "Canada" Augustus of Salem taking in a lot of pepper, the master of which was anxiously awaiting our arrival, he apprehended an attack from the natives. The scenery around Quallah Battoo is pleasing to the eye, the land — the sea shore lying low, while far back are seen the tall peaks of mountains penetrating through the clouds. Immense groves of Cocoas and palms are seen around the huts of the natives, and in almost everything observable there appears a primitive simplicity to be found with those of the Indian Archipelago. Having had an attack of

richness shortly before our arrival. I did not visit the shore as I wished to have done, and can therefore say nothing of the manners and customs of the Malays. Those we saw appeared to the eye as if incapable of such treachery as has been attributed to them. They were men of fine features and stature - many of them even noble and commanding in appearance. On the morning of the 4th the Rajah of Quallah Battoo with his suite paid a visit to the Captain who was confined to his cot with an attack of gout. It is in that cot is the first man of war so highly honored. "Po Adam," the Rajah who has in so many instances saved the lives of Americans, acts as interpreter. This man, so highly spoken of in the voyage of the Potomac, has since the departure of that vessel been reduced from affluence to extreme poverty in consequence of the hostility evinced towards him by the Malays. He is looked upon as an enemy, and is in fear of his life. His appearance is not prepossessing, and although he did our countrymen much service yet he is Malay after all. He was discovered in several lies when interpreting. Our Captain explained the views of our government to the Rajah who listened as attentively to everything said as if he actually could be trusted. He declared that such occurrences as had taken place should never again happen, but there is no dependence to be placed upon his word. Our commerce in this part of the world is increasing and requires the protection of our men of war and nothing but the occasional visit of our vessels can prevent the occurrence of such acts as above referred to. On the morning of the 6th we weighed anchor and stood N. along the coast.

Mid.n L. M. Mason of Virginia, died this morning after a painful illness of three weeks. He was beloved by all on board, and the shock produced by his death can not easily be forgotten. He was perfectly honorable in his intercourse with all. In the afternoon at 4 o'clock the remains of our shipmate were committed to the deep with the appropriate ceremonies due to an officer of his rank. The body was borne from the quarter deck to the gangway by the petty officers and those of the crew who had served him during his illness. His messmates followed, while the other officers stood uncovered as they passed. The band played a dead march, the colors remained at half mast (as they have been during the day) and the entire occasion was indeed one of solemnity. The coat, sword and cap of the deceased were placed upon the body, the burial service was read in an impressive manner - the awful splash was heard, the shock of which went to the heart of every one - the guard fired two vollies and the crew dispersed with mournful feelings to think over the virtues and forget the faults of one

who little thought when leaving Mother, Father, Sister & Brothers that the sea would claim them for its own.

January 1st Here we are at the harbour of Annalabou but not finding any American vessel at anchor had no communication. The following day we anchored off the port of Mylah where we found the American ship Prince of Salem taking on board a cargo of pepper. At this place we found our friend Mr Adams that we might inform the Rajahs of the place we had come through of the object of our visit.

January 4th Since leaving Sumatra we have experienced head winds and strong currents and been driven into the Gulf of Bengal within sight of the Nicobar Islands. At last we have gained the straits of Malacca. During the last three or four days we have passed several vessels bound up and down the straits, one of which hoisting English colors we boarded and found not a single white person on board. She was manned entirely by malays & Siamese and bound to Penang & Madras from Singapore. The navigation in these straits is so hazardous that we usually anchor at night, and remain until morning, making but 2 or 3 miles a day. The weather however has been exceedingly pleasant. To day the coast of Malacca is visible and I have thus had my first view of the mainland of Asia. On the evening of the 28th we anchored off the English town of Malacca and the following morning went on board a boat to procure refreshments for the ship. Malacca is a city as it contains over 30,000 people and is one of the most flourishing places in the East. Its inhabitants are a mixture of Malays, Hindoos, Parsees, Chinese, and are eternal industrious. At 9 a.m. we left for Singapore. In this passage we buried two of our shipmates who had been suffering a long time with the dysentery.

Singapore

On the morning of Sunday the 2nd of Feby we arrived at the above city after a long and disagreeable passage through the straits of Malacca. We found here H.B.M.S. Cambrian and Brig Wolverine, besides two or three steamers and a variety of merchant craft from the sunda Malay Proas to the large East Indiaman of 1400 tons. Consequently the little bay presents a scene of activity the equal of which we have not witnessed since leaving Rio de Janeiro. Com[d]r Shadwell the English Senior officer visited us on our arrival having heard that our sick list was very large. He offered us every assistance in his power. He was 1st Lieutenant of the Cara when she was captured by this ship, and in consequence of the death of Captain Laurie he was obliged to surrender her. In addition to this we have on board the invalids taken from the Cara when captured and Soarer at Norfolk, the man Adrian

Peterson who shot Captain Lambert. But to return to Singapore; the harbour is entirely surrounded by islands, and the scenery is extremely pleasing. The city has quite a mixed appearance when viewed from the shipping. — The small and filthy malay huts are too close to the splendid mansions of the merchants to please the eye of a stranger, but upon visiting the shore I was agreeably disappointed at finding it a place of so much importance, and increasing wealth. The number of Chinese resident here is computed at 60,000 all of whom are engaged in mercantile pursuits. Their Bazaar is said to be unsurpassed by any on the coast. Jews, Persees, Hindoos and English, the latter numbering but 300, compose the remainder of the population. There are however a few Malays who subsist by fishing, boating &c. The streets of Singapore are after the English plan, and are extremely neat, although those in the business part of the city labor under many disadvantages which time alone can remedy. There are two Markets — the only buildings of which it appears to be expedient to waste, but changing enormous prices. The stores of the Chinese are kept neat and the great variety of articles exhibited is really astonishing.

I paid several visits to our Consul Mr Ballestier, who resides a short distance on the interior of the island, passing over excellent roads beautifully laid out and ornamented with shrubbery of various kinds. The road from the Consul's house to the main one is lined on both sides with Pine-Apples, a sight that I may never witness again. Upon returning from one of my visits, I witnessed the performances of a Malay juggler who executed his feats in a most adroit manner. One of the most astonishing, and about which there could be no deception was the "swallowing of a sword". I confess that I felt disgusted though interested. The other tricks such as hiding the balls, playing with the poisonous serpents &c &c were performed upon the bare ground, and were more cleverly done than any I ever before witnessed. The performer begged for a shilling which I gave him with pleasure. At a later period I visited the Opium shops which are licensed by Government. The time being afternoon was not favorable to see many of the smokers having retired. In a long table were seated whole rows of Chinese, each with a pipe and lamp. Upon my entering they had hardly strength to raise their heads so completely had the vile drug obtained the ascendancy over their bodies and minds. They appeared stupified — occasionally grinning with a smile — the most idiotic by the way that can be imagined. I left disgusted, although

interest was in favor of going to it. I had the pleasure of seeing an Orang Outang while in Singapore. It was a resemblance of an extraordinary person but had the most beastly form. This specimen was from the island of Borneo - was six months old and about three feet in height. When I viewed its nose resembled that of a child when teazed, but much like a hogs snout. It was truly pitiable to behold its meanness and I could not term its face a countenance betokening misery. It was with difficulty that I could look upon it with dry eyes. When teazed as was often done to display its irritability, it rolled over and over upon the ground - tore its hair, like the Devil which confined it, and portray anger in almost any action. Thus it must act until its best natured edge is worn away. I never expect or wish to see an unmalicious appearance in the human race again. I could go on for pages enumerating little incidents of this kind which occurred at Singapore, but it would only be a waste of time and paper. While at anchor in this port we lost two of our crew whom we buried on shore. Being a Sabbath when the first was buried I followed his body to the grave and heard the funeral service performed in a most impressive manner. The ride from the grave yard was a beautiful one; the whole city from it exhibited to view stretching miles away until lost in the broad expanse of water. The peculiar houses of the English residents, the Malay huts with their thatched roofs and the groves of cocoa nut trees formed a most beautiful picture, equal to anything I ever witnessed. The ground upon which stood, evening as it did the remains of our shipmates, and overlooking the habitations of men, was of itself enough to bring pure thoughts to those who were wandering far from home and friends. For myself I felt at peace with all the world. After leaving this beautiful spot I stopped to pick a nutmeg or two which upon the roadside as a memento of my visit.

The 22d of February being the anniversary of the birth of the Father of our country, a salute was fired at meridian and in the evening as usual on such occasions, rockets were sent off and blue lights burnt. Old Ironsides looked beautifully, and attracted an immense crowd of spectators to the shore.

On the 26th of March, our supplies being all on board we weighed anchor and stood out to sea to commence another wandering among the Indian Archipelago.

Samboas.

On the morning of the 14th of March the coast of the large and fertile island of

of Borneo was visible and in the afternoon anchored off the mouth of Dambas river about four miles from shore. A Chinese junk was also seen endeavouring to enter the river. On the 19th an expedition consisting of 23 men, 3 officers all in two boats set out under command of Lieut Chapelier to visit the town of "Dambas" which was supposed to be in possession of the Dutch but whether belonging to a private company or to Government had not been ascertained. During the absence of the boats we were treated with a tremendous quantity of rain, thunder and lightning far exceeding anything of the kind I ever saw before. The view of Borneo from the frigate presents an exceedingly mountainous country of a fertile appearance and unquestionably capable of great cultivation. The land on the shore for several miles is low, but gently rises until lost in the clouds or in the high peaks of the mountains. On the evening of the 20th the expedition returned safe and sound. They found the town of Dambas situated about 40 miles from the mouth of the river, and containing upwards of 10.000 inhabitants principally Malays and Chinese, the latter of whom carry on an extensive trade in gold dust, giving in exchange cloths, fancy articles &c. The district of which "Dambas" is the capital contains about 26.000 Square miles and is under the exclusive Government of Holland. There are supposed to be 50.000 Chinese in this country who are the merchants and miners. Since 1819 the Dutch have kept a military establishment here as well as at Pontiana and other places lower down the coast. But little trouble was found in subduing the Malays, while the Chinese were not so easily tamed. The latter class is supposed have had possession of parts of the island for seventy five years. There is a race in the interior of the island, called "Dyaks" who till the soil. Our expedition was received very kindly by Governor Baumgardt, of whom much information was obtained. He stated the country for miles around to be a great marsh which overflows at high tide, and in consequence many of the houses were built upon piles. Our cottons which find their way to this almost unknown portion of the globe come through the Chinese and our trade having ceased some years ago on account of a great competition with the English. The only two articles of exclusion are Salt and Gunpowder which are monopolized by the

Government only. In other respects an open trade is permitted. There is a tax of a rupee (40¢) per ton on foreign vessels entering the river, and a half [illegible] on Dutch. The amount taken from Dambas yearly of washed gold dust is over 25000 dollars, a pound of this article being worth 320 dollars. A kind of wood called "Ojer" is brought from the interior by the Dyaks sold to the Chinese and by them to the traders. It is extremely hard, very durable and capable of a great polish. The fort in the town is composed of it, and the wood is now 30 years of age yet no rot has appeared. It is supposed to last 100 years. Nothing of the interior is known as no Europeans have penetrated more than 60 or 70 miles from the coast.

While the expedition was away one of our boats visited a Chinese town at the mouth of the river and found it similar to that part of Sungapan inhabited by this strange people. Our cottons were there, and as in the case wherever found were preferred to the English. Notwithstanding the many favorable evidences received at Dambas it is a doubtful question whether anything would be gained by a direct trade with the towns of Borneo. A few of our fabrics find their way to this spot probably as cheap as rate, considering the means possessed by the Chinese for barter, as if carried in American vessels. Again, the supply, as in all barbarous countries, is restricted and often inconstant: while the only articles of export, being gold and diamonds, could not be sufficient to turn the course of our cottons from Canton direct to Borneo.

The morning of the 22nd we got underway and stood along the northward. For several days the weather continued pleasant, but in consequence of head winds and calms we had not managed some days more than 20 miles. April 2nd. The same old story, calm, calm, calm. We have nothing, not even a gale of wind to divert ourselves with. To be sure there are several sharks playing about the ship, but even one gets tired of looking at them. God help the poor fellow who should get among them.

Borneo city

On the afternoon of the 6th of April after a passage of more than 15 days from Dambas we anchored off the mouth of Borneo river. Here we found the English brig Ariel from Singapore about to return to that port with a cargo of pepper &c. Our anchoring place was between two small islands, and the view from it resembled that at Dambas although the country around appeared much more fertile and cultivated. Nightly we were visited by heavy rains and exceedingly sharp lightning and heavy thunder. The days

are very pleasant however although excessively warm. On the morning of the 8th the expedition having for its object the introduction of our trade with this island, set out for Borneo city about 30 miles up the river. It returned however at midnight with the intelligence that the English Government had bought of the Rajah the exclusive rights of trade in his dominions as well as that of working any coal mines that may exist. It appeared subsequently that a Mr Brooke who had been throughout the East for his philanthropy had resided for some years at Sarawak a few miles from Borneo-city and so ingratiated himself into the good will of the people that he had been able to purchase a considerable portion of the new territory which he had made over to his government, and that through his means the Government itself had been able to negotiate for that part in which there exist fertile mines of coal. The Rajah received the expedition very kindly but incidentally informed the officer in command that nothing could be done without consulting Mr B whom they considered the Rajah of Borneo-proper. Nothing therefore could be done but to return to the ship which was done after a slight examination of the city and its inhabitants. The city itself contains upwards of 10000 people all of whom are Malays. It is built upon posts over the river, the streets being formed so as to allow boats to traverse them, and at first few Europeans or white people even visit this port it seemed as if the whole city had turned out in canoes to welcome our expedition. Men and women, girls and boys (the two latter being generally naked) were seen huddling each other to catch a glimpse of the "white faces." In fact the arrival had caused a jubilee. On returning much discussion ensued as to the motives which led these people to build their city in the manner it is while many spots on the banks of the river were seen apparently so much better qualified for that object. The only sound reason I can think of is that these people being followers of Mahomet and enjoined to bathe themselves frequently, a better opportunity presents itself to the many by the manner used. It is however a mystery. Several brass or Composition cannon were seen in a fort or rather stockade about halfway down the river and are particularly of an octagonal shape attracted much attention. Had these people been in the least treacherous our little band might easily have been overpowered by these engines of destruction, but nothing occurred to warrant the assertion that anything wrong intended have been committed. True each

Malay from his decease (he raised alas!) but with one or two Malay with that one. It is perhaps better on the whole that England has obtained possession of the fruit of Borneo. Should Coal exist, of which there is little doubt she is better qualified by her resources in India to introduce it in the steam navigation of the China Sea, and should principles still be continued by the inhabitants under her control, what nation would be qualified as herself to enforce them. The Dutch may grumble at the bargain, but that is nothing. The Americans of course will not demur when they will in reality obtain a great portion of the benefits arising from the agreement.

On the morning of the 10th we got underway, and stood along under easy sail having sent on Naturalist, Dr Reinhardt, to explore as far as practicable the island Laboan. He returned in the afternoon with a collection of plants, &c. and reported favorably regarding the existence of Coal. We then stood on our course for Cochin China.

April 28th. This evening the ship was struck by a severe squall which fortunately was of short duration. It nearly threw her on her beam ends. At 1/2 after 11 P.M. Jno Thompson 2d fell from the fore top gallant yard and was drowned. A boat was lowered quickly - the life buoy cut away and every exertion made to save him, - his body was not found.

May 1st. We are today in sight of Cape Touran, but unfortunately have a head wind. On the 10th following after having been in sight of the harbour for three days we anchored in Touran Bay. East coast of Cochin China, having been from Borneo exactly one month.

Touron Bay.

The scenery in and about Touron is remarkably grand and picturesque, resembling somewhat that at the harbour of Rio de Janeiro. The hills appear to have been thrown together without the least regard to order and compare strangely with the neat huts of the natives and the fields of rice under cultivation. Touran is situated on the river of the same name on the left side of the bay and is completely concealed from the view when entering the harbour. The river divides the town into two parts, each division containing forts and soldiers. I should judge the whole population to be four or five thousand. A great many little boats continually glided along the bay thus giving a cheerful appearance. On the 11th an officer was sent to town to call upon the authorities of the place, to state the object of visiting the port and the probable length of our stay, as well as to order a salute to be returned gun for gun. On reaching the shore he was

recently a person apparently of some distinction and conducted through a file of soldiers to a large house immediately fronting the water, and, as near as could be recognized by the description of a late author, apparently the same to which the officers of the Peacock were shown. Here the party took a social cup of Tea, before proceeding to the business of the day. By means of a Chinaman purser (of whom we had five on board) communication was had in writing with the aforesaid personage. It would be as well to remark that the Cochin Chinese and Japanese use the same characters in writing as the Chinaman proper, but their languages are entirely different. To our enquiries for water, refreshments &c the Mandarin gave the most trivial replies, such as "why do you want anything" - why did you come here, where are you going - how long do you stay at Macao, what are you going to do at Canton &c &c. As our business at Canton did not concern these obscure individuals, the officers made bold to tell them so, which answer put an end to further questions. The Chinaman said that we might buy some chickens &c. After making arrangements for a salute the party drank some more tea and dispersed. The following day, having found an excellent stream of water near a fork at the entrance of the bay we brigand to watering ship. No boats ventured to come along side, and the whole conduct of these people evinced a suspicious character, little comporting with what we had been led to expect. Our boats were now allowed to land at the neighbouring villages to procure refreshments. On the morning of the 13th at sunrise I set out for the town to procure live stock if possible. The market was held upon the beach immediately fronting the house to which our envoy had been conducted and soldiers were stationed along the shore armed with rattans to keep the crowd in order. Dire were punishments inflicted upon several half naked young ladies who had strayed out of the position assigned them. We found refreshments very reasonable, although the manner of selling was rather a crowd one, for if you wished to purchase three or four chickens it was necessary to buy the whole stock of vegetables also, containing perhaps 10 or 15 pumpkins, two or three packs of sweet potatoes, onions &c &c. Thus they were Yankees enough to get rid of their whole stock to the same purchaser. For change they gave a kind of zinc coin strung by the thousand upon sticks a yard of which passed for a dollar. The women, who appeared to be the sellers, were mostly good looking but of small stature, their complexions being dark but for the fashion of wearing the hair wants only

hardly distinguished from the men. Most of the children, both boys and girls were naked and ran hither and thither without any attempt on the part of their parents to restrain them or shield them from the gaze of strangers. At a given signal the crowd was dispersed by the soldiers and with but a small supply of stock we retraced our way to the ship. There was quite an excitement caused on board ship while at anchor in Turon Bay which I shall endeavor to relate. On the morning of the 14th a boat was seen approaching the ship manned by 20 or 30 rowers and containing in the bows (the place of honor among this strange people) several mandarins with a large body guard. The former were ushered into the Cabin and every attention was paid them. They were accompanied by an interpreter who could speak but a little broken Spanish and Portuguese. After they had passed an hour in the Cabin they were shown around the ship, but the same suspicious movements were noticed when they had occasion to visit on shore. Shortly before leaving, the interpreter came back into the Cabin and handed the Captain an open letter, stating by signs and broken Portuguese that if discovered by the mandarins his head would be cut off. The letter was in French and after they had departed, it was translated and found to be from Bishop Dominique Lefevre, Apostolic Vicar of Cochin China. It stated that he had been imprisoned, and called upon the French Admiral (for whom we were mistaken) to make certain demands upon the King of Cochin China, and thereby procure his release, as well as peace and quiet for the French missionaries. It's date was the 10th of May, the day we arrived off the harbour, and a postscript was attached dated 11th in the following words - "I am condemned to death without delay - hasten or all is finished." Here then was a predicament - A subject of a nation with which we were at peace was in the hands of barbarians - he was a christian, and humanity itself called for assistance. - No French ships were nearer than Manila a distance of 5 or 600 miles, and before aid could be obtained from there, he would probably be executed as the postscript to his letter implied. Again, these people respect no civilized power - will make no treaties, and are destitute of all faith regarding even the slightest promises. Their conduct to us though not actually uncivil implied a distrust and a groundless suspicion of our character, though the authorities of the place had been repeatedly assured that we were a national ship requiring only water & refreshments (of which we were in need) and were ready to pay for what we received. But these items are of minor consider-

atrin and only seem to show their character in its true light. Action of some kind was necessary now and to this poor Frenchman who had been condemned to death solely for having tried to spread the lights of Christianity and civilization among these barbarians. Accordingly at one P.M. four boats well manned and armed and set out for Touran about 2 miles distant, under command of the Captain. On landing at the town the officers attended by a guard of marines and sailors proceeded to the house in which the first meeting was held. One force was then stationed from the house to the beach so that in case of surprise anything should terminate as safely as possible. All these preparations met with no resistance although we passed through at least 3 times the number of our force who were armed with spears and muskets, and were within pistol shot of a fort mounting long 24 pounders. Of course the first demand was to see the Governor of Touran, when a person presently was referred to as being that character. He was one of our visitors of the morning and it was evident that he was not the chief man. At last this personage said if we wished to see the Governor we must first kill him our bearers. But he was informed by the Captain that he should wait 15 minutes to see the Governor when if not arrived he should take the Mandarins present on board the ship as hostages for the safety of the French Bishop's life. A letter was left for the latter written in Chinese and French, which the Mandarins promised to send to Hué where he was confined. At the termination of the allotted period, the Governor not having appeared, the Mandarins were marched to the beach through hundreds of their countrymen and taken to the ship. So little suspicion the interpreter was taken with them. A letter to the King was also left in charge of an officer on shore who promised to forward it. The following afternoon three of the King's junks were seized and brought alongside without resistance. Until the 18th the Captain and Mandarins were engaged corresponding with the officer on shore, and several letters were written to the King, but supposed to have been detained. A great many of the letters received from shore stated that the French Bishop was on his way to Touran. On the 18th a letter was received on board directed as usual to the Captain and stated that the King had sent a Mandarin from Hué to arrange matters and requested him

to come on here the following day and bring the hostages with him. This he did but he and the principal of this people, who must no doubt have attacked the boat accompanying him had it not been too strong - there was no room for them armed, and we came to the determination that none of the letters directed to the King had been forwarded to him. The hostages on their own urged hard that they might be permitted to return to their friends, promising to use every exertion to procure the release of Bishop Lefevre. Two of these persons were Christians, and as the country was not better cleared by their remaining on board, they were allowed to land in the evening of the 19th. On the morning of the 21st three Cochin Chinese Brigs of war were discovered in the land, having probably anchored with the night during a heavy blow. There were also two large vessels under sail, which I had forgotten to mention. A party headed by the Captain set out to visit the Brigs, but upon arriving near them we were ordered off. Upon showing the arms with which the boat was loaded, they made no resistance. Accordingly the Captain boarded one of them and found everything in confusion. They had each probably a hundred men on board were rigged half English and half Chinese fashion and though mounting 14 guns each I am confident that a disciplined force of 50 men could have taken possession of them. The day previous the wind blowing strong from N.E. one Chinese Junks endeavored to escape into the river. Three shot were fired over and around them, yet they kept on. A force was then sent in pursuit and succeeded in taking them from under the guns of the fort. Numbers were lost, most of the Chinese having jumping overboard & swimming ashore. From the 23 to the 27th no satisfactory intelligence was received by the Captain regarding the French Bishop. We may have almost certainly from remarks made by the hostages, and the tenor of the letters received that the life of this venerable man has been spared. On the morning of the 27th therefore we stood out to sea, bound to Canton. On the 30th we boarded an English ship from Singapore for Hong Kong, and learned from a French Priest on board that the imprisonment of Bishop Lefevre was known at the former place, and that the French squadron was preparing to go to his assistance. After being sometime at Canton, the French Squadron arrived, and reported that a Commodore had gone into Turon Bay the day after we left, and succeeded in effecting the release of

the Bishop. Thus although our endeavours were not directly successful yet it is some pleasure to know that we were the means of saving his life. It is said that there are 600,000 Catholics in Cochin China, converts by means of French Missionaries. The French it is supposed have more knowledge regarding this strange people than any other nation, as many have been employed at Hué (the capital, about 40 miles in the interior, and a city defended by 1000 cannon) The present King however has pursued a policy directly different from his predecessors who openly allowed instruction by the Missionaries. At present there are but few persons employed by the Chinese Government of foreign nations, and those are principally engaged in navigating the vessels of the King who monopolizes the foreign trade. Numberless attempts have been made by the English and other powers to form treaties with this strange people, but without success. Since an American Government has made the attempt but failure in both instances has followed. For my own part I cannot see the advantages to be realized by a treaty. There are no important articles from the country either of its produce or manufacture that cannot be obtained in the Asian markets at as reasonable a price, and our vessels being undefended and so far from home might fall easy preys to pirates and even the Cochin Chinese themselves. Let England, or France or some other powerful nation first obtain a treaty, and we may then hope for a share of the profits (if any) to be derived from this capricious people, little better than barbarians —

Our passage from Tourane to Macao was a lengthy and disagreeable one. We passed the island of Hainan, a part of the vast Empire of China proper within 30 miles. Innumerable quantities of fishing boats were seen a great distance from land, and everything indicated that we were approaching a populous country. On the 5th of June we had a letter bag on board the American ship "Rainbow" and shortly afterwards anchored in Macao outer roads.

China

The city of Macao is built at the foot of a mountain, and the scenery around being beautiful (hundreds of islands of all sizes being spread around for miles) it has an extremely pleasing ap-

pearance. The houses are mostly of brick and the streets are kept clean and neat. The Chinese carry on much of the business of the place and even the Fort of Macao although it is nominally in possession of the Portuguese paying a certain annual sum annually for ground rent. I should suppose the number of inhabitants to be 10,000 of whom not more than 500 are Portuguese. The laws are here enforced by the latter, but there are certain Mandarins appointed to inspect and report the condition of affairs to the Chinese Government and it is often necessary when punishment is to be inflicted upon a Chinaman that these officers should attend the trial &c. In fact the Portuguese have but a nominal claim to the city and are but little consulted upon necessary subjects by the Mandarins. Very little business is therefore carried on here under such a restrictive policy as that of the Portuguese Government. The port duties and charges are very oppressive and tend to turn the current of trade direct to Canton river, while the establishment of these taxes the Chinese have nothing to do. It is only the internal police of the city that they regulate and inspect.

On the morning of the 18th of June we weighed anchor and stood up Canton river. The scenery on the passage was not remarkable, the only interesting objects being the forts at the Bocca Tigris (about halfway to Canton) the scene of much slaughter during the English war. It is said that one of them was attacked in the night when the Chinese being much pressed, each man deserted his post and with a lantern in his hand ascended the hill at the foot of which the fort is built. It must have been a queer sight to have seen so many lights abroad in the country running away. But it was fun to the Chinese who became by this means easy victims to the sharp shooters of the English. Most of these forts are built at the base of steep hills and are of course commanded by the entire entrance of the river. If well defended they are certainly capable of a strong resistance if not of victory.

On the 19th we anchored off the small island of Whampoa, in what is called "Blenheim's reach" so called in consequence of a large English ship of that name having penetrated thus far during the late war. The commercial average of ships of war being at the Bocca Tigris. It is said that our frigate "Constellation" was the first American man of war that passed the Bogue. The island of Whampoa has no attraction for the stranger, and is only worthy of notice as a place of increasing importance and which all foreign vessels must enter on their voyages of Sea. Although the scenery between it and the Bogue is really beautiful —; the land near the banks of the river

Captain Jno Percival born

April 3. 1779.

aged April 3. 45 = 66 years.

is generally low, while miles away in the interior high hills and mountains are seen, the summits of many far above the clouds. Fruit trees extending along the banks of the river while a little in the rear are seen the rice or paddy fields, appearing like plains of grass, and the whole giving the stranger a right idea of the extent to which agriculture is carried among the "celestials". Indeed the art itself is considered of vital importance and one in which the Emperor and his family do not fail to labor, thus setting an example of industry and inducing the belief that not even the highest in the land is above exemption from tilling the soil. The Agriculturist, therefore in China takes a high rank amongst the many different classes that inhabit this vast empire. On the 29th we were much delighted at seeing an American steamer approach us with a large party of Chinese and foreigners on a visit to the ship. The former especially were much pleased with their visit to Old Ironsides, and all took their departure amid the waving of the guns that so many times had bellowed forth their notes in praise of some successful citizens with the present party, or in defiance of an enemy. It was also a pleasing idea, to think that the American flag should have become of so much importance in this far off portion of the globe, and that the industry of our countrymen should have enabled them to ply the first steamer on Canton river. It is a fact beyond dispute that in the many places we have visited the American character is looked upon as above reproach and worthy of emulation. My first visit to Canton was made in the Midas - a fact that I shall always remember. The scenery upon approaching this city of the "black haired race" resembles that I have described as appertaining to Whampoa, indeed there is a sameness in the rural appearance of the Pearl river which cannot fail of attracting notice. Two Pagodas are passed on the way, one just above Whampoa, and visible from the ship, the other much nearer the city. These stupendous works of art are octagonal in their ~~ship~~ shape, eight stories in height, sides colored alternately red and white with bells dangling from the upper edges. They are built upon mounds, but for what object is unknown. They are of ancient structure, and are a proud memorial of the labour and energy of a bygone people. Upon a nearer approach to the city, one cannot fail of observing the innumerable quantity of boats of every description that block the passage to the landing. Indeed it is with difficulty the steamer sometimes avoids upsetting them. These boats appear to be of four classes - "junks, sizes ranging from 50 to 600 tons - Flower boats

or boats of pleasure, where the citizen can retire with his friends to enjoy himself. Tankeah boats, or those filled entirely by girls who for a small sum land a passenger at any deserted point, and last of all the canoe holding but one person generally a barber, fish monger, vegetable seller or pedler. Many of the pleasure boats are fitted up in magnificent style with chandeliers, carpets, mirrors &c. I enjoyed myself one evening passing near them, and observing the various parties unrestrained. The evening music is continued until a late hour. No foreigner it is said has ever penetrated within the interior of one of these palaces upon the water. The whole number of boats on Canton River is computed at 84,000 and indeed I should judge it to be correct, and consequently there may be said to be as many people who merely visit "terra-firma". Such a busy scene as one witnesses here cannot but afford pleasure - boats are continually crossing & recrossing in every direction and thousands of voices are mingled together giving one a good idea of pandemonium. The Hongs of the foreign merchants are situated on the north bank of the river but a short distance from the landing place. They do not differ much from houses of our own country, other than having large court yards connecting the different places of business. The dwellings of the Chinese are generally of brick and two stories in height, the streets are extremely narrow, with the exception of a few but little visited by strangers, and are paved with flags or blocks of granite, and sheltered from the sun and often heat of the day by mats extended from the roofs of the houses. The streets worth observing of notice, and the only ones visited by most foreigners are Hog and Old China streets, which are but a short distance from the foreign hongs. It is here that the many curious and fancy articles are bought which fill their own country and are so much prized as the work of this strange people. Indeed in these two streets can be had anything of interest that the foreigner desires. The shops are kept neat, and are generally well stocked with everything curious, such as Chessmen - lacquered ware, fans &c &c, though there is a sameness in all that are to be seen. Many of the upper stories of these shops are used by painters to display their productions which are generally copies of engravings, and sold at a reasonable price. There are many views of Canton river, and the surrounding country designed by Chinese who are themselves unable to execute works from nature, which would do honor to many European artists. Most of these shops also contain apartments for smoking opium similar to those visited at Singapore and which I shall more fully describe. The extent to which this habit is carried in Canton, in defiance of positive laws to the contrary, is only imagined by those who have not visited the city; hardly a person is met who does not bear upon his countenance the effects of this

injurious animals. In some parts of the city there are streets handsomely and tastefully adorned and which take their names from the merchandises or professions carried on therein. To stand at the end of one of these streets and look down is really a beautiful sight - thousands of gilded and beautifully ornamental signs are extended from the shops as well as lanterns of all shapes which in the evening are lit up presenting a sight better imagined than described. In riding through many of these streets, so little visited by foreigners we were often annoyed by the crowds of people that followed us to get a sight of the "fan-qui-lo" or foreign devil, as they are pleased to term an American. It must be observed that it is only the lowest class of the population which thus offends. In China, as in all other countries, the educated or refined person has too much delicacy of feeling to utter such language or to join in a mob. Canton is supposed to contain between two and three millions of people, and the whole empire of China some 300 millions. Indeed in the city it is with difficulty that one can push his way along - so great is the crowd constantly on the move. In the night until a late hour the people are seen thronging the streets, generally with lanterns in their hands, which often at a distance look, conducted by invisible agents. Another immense quantity of lanterns forms one of the great objects of attraction - their whole alternately or painted on a kind of transparent, having various devices on which are emblazoned the names, occupations, &c. of the owners, upon this slight affair, and for the smallest consideration, two persons shaved. Many having dogs and cats for sale are also met with in great abundance, as well as those of other trades, and any one may appear to be busy. I can describe Canton no better than by saying it is one moving mass of beings.

The women we saw were principally servants and laboring people, as the real Chinese lady with the "lotus feet" is rarely seen in the street. There were however a few old beggar women at the corner of old China street who appeared as if they might have seen better times - some of these had feet about four inches in length. These are an immeasurable quantity of beggars in Canton of both sexes the greater portion of whom are blind. These generally go in pairs, the leader having two pieces of bamboo with which he strikes in kind of time, and without the least hesitation marches his train until the first store where to get rid of the din and racket constantly kept up. The shop keeper throws into his hat a few cash. They then depart to pay a visit to some other unlucky merchant. I visited while at Canton some of the ivory workers shops, and saw the laborious process of fabricating chess men and other curiosities - also the lacquered ware and silk factories with all of which I was much pleased.

The Chinese are generally

about 5 ft 6 or 7 in in height, and generally handsome well built. Their noses are flat and their eyes of the kind called oblique –; their hair which is worn down their back in a braid is of jet black colour, has given them the name in which they most delight – the "black haired race". It would be as rare to see a tall Chinaman or one with light hair, as it would be to see a baby with a huge set of whiskers. Their heads are shaved, with the exception of a tuft – left which descends into the braids. Their dress consists of a pair of loose trousers and gown which at a distance gives them the appearance of women. Most of them carry fans which when passing through the streets protects from the sun seems them as a kind of umbrella. Some wear caps. The dress of the women is similar to that of the men. If we can judge by Canton there appear but two amusements to which this strange people are addicted – viz theatricals and gambling. The latter is carried to a great extent. I had the pleasure of witnessing a theatrical performance and found much to amuse me. The stage was erected in the open air at the junction of four streets which formed a square, containing at least one thousand persons. The better class however by paying a few cash can secure seats over the stores near the scene of action. The performers are all men, no women being allowed to act publicly or to (I think) visit even a performance. Indeed much of the acting is of that character that a modest woman especially would not like to witness. The deception in regard to the dress characters of the women was admirably conducted for some time I had no idea but that bona-fide females were before me. Most of the acting was very extravagant: all the actors came in through the same door and the musicians were upon the stage. At the end of every scene a large board was hung up in front of the audience which informed them what was to follow, and two persons hoisted a kind of drapery on sticks which formed the door to enter upon the stage. The play concluded with a grand fight resembling greatly a "sham fight" of a general muster day at home. The chief personage had his head cut off which was done by giving him a few cuts with a wooden sword; he then rose up and the play concluded, but not before the character alluded to had got up and run off the stage.

After passing several months in and about Canton during which time I received much pleasure from observing this strange people, we left for Macao on the 27th of August. On the 1st of September we left the latter port for Manila

Manila

On the 15th of September we arrived at this port after a long and disagreeable

the passage. It really seems as if our stay in the China seas had been as unpleasant as it possibly could be, but we complained not as we were homeward bounds. The city of Manila is the capital of the Spanish possessions in the East, and is beautifully situated at the foot of a fine bay into which a river empties. It contains probably 150,000 inhabitants many of whom reside outside of the walls of the city which is so constructed, having its drawbridges, port-cullises &c. as to be capable of a long defence against invasion. There are but few handsome buildings in Manila with the exception of the Governors palace and the cathedrals most of which are overgrown with moss and have quite an antiquated appearance. Outside of the walls is the large cigar factory belonging to the Spanish Government where the "cheroots" so much esteemed are made. When I visited it there were at least 800 native girls employed in manufacturing, and it was quite interesting to witness the different processes the tobacco undergoes before it is formed into a cigar. Most of these girls were very pretty, but I was very glad to leave them and get into the open air. They kept up such a confounded noise. The amusements of the Spanish residents appear to be riding, theatricals & music. At vespers any pleasant evening hundreds upon hundreds of carriages may be seen filled with ladies & gentlemen engaging themselves upon the fine road which surrounds the city, and the scene is really a gay one until a late hour. This is the only time the Spanish ladies are seen and this of itself may be an inducement for many to join in the festivity. On thursday & saturday evenings the soldiers parade before the Governors palace when the band of each regiment performs a piece of music. I had the pleasure of witnessing one of these parades and the soldiers, mostly natives & malays, went through their exercises in a splendid manner. The music too was the best I ever heard.

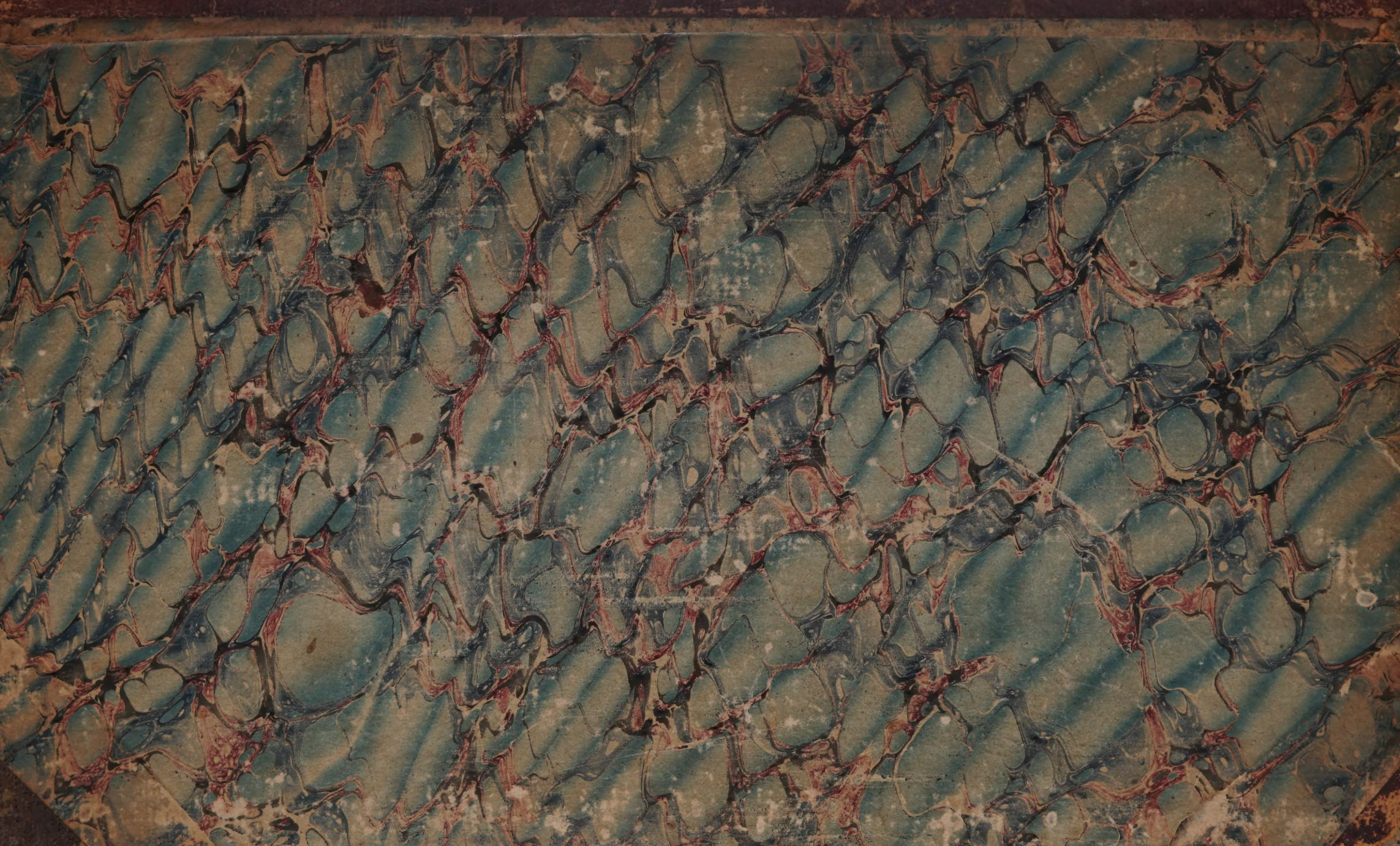
There are a great number of Chinese in Manila the most of whom are shop keepers and mechanics, and who compose a valuable portion of the community. After enjoying a visit to this front of several days we stood out on the 20th inst. for the Pacific. On the 25th we came in sight of the "Bashee Islands" situated upon the confines of the Pacific ocean and China sea. We were surprised at seeing upon the islands of "Batan" traces of European customs, and upon landing found several priests, soldiers and others who were sent from Manila. The natives were very hospitable and are noted for being docile. These islands are in possession of the Spanish, who cultivate tobacco

for exportation to Manila. On the 24th we stood on our course for the Sandwich islands after having filled up our water & obtained a few refreshments for our long passage across the Pacific. This passage is remarkable for our having passed through fields of floating pumice stone the effect of a late eruption of some volcano in the Japan islands. For miles and days the sea was covered with it. On the 14th of October and 2 of November we experienced very rough weather. On the latter day we crossed the 180th degree of longitude. On the 16th following we came to an anchor in the harbour of Honolulu. Below, after experiencing one of the roughest passages we have yet made.

Honolulu

It being Sunday when we arrived at this port we found every thing as quiet as though the place was uninhabited. - not a boat was seen in the harbour and the spirit of rest seemed even to have pervaded the whole ships. During our stay I had several opportunities of visiting the town which I cannot say I was much pleased. It is about the size of South Boston, does not contain any beautiful streets or buildings, and but for the scenery around it which is grand, would be unworthy of notice. It is however the great depot in the Pacific for whalers to refit & repair after their long cruises, and being about half way between the American coast and India is becoming daily of increasing importance & will no doubt at some future day rank high in the commercial world. There are about 23 American families residing among it's entire group, the Sandwich Islands, besides a few English and French and almost the entire business is in the hands of the foreign residents. The Government is composed of foreigners who have taken the oath of allegiance, and although nominally there is a native King, he has but little real influence. Much has been said of late years regarding the great good resulting to the people of these islands by the labors of foreign Missionaries. It is true these people are dressed many of them in the European style and are probably more civilized than formerly. By the same laws enacted through the instrumentality of Christians are bringing gradually decrease the population. From what I have seen and learned from others I am confident their condition to be far worse than it was 30 years since when christians had not become a fixed habit among them. They appear mild and well disposed although extremely indolent. Perhaps this latter quality is more developed in consequence of a great portion of their labor being devoted under the present system to the

support of the King and chiefs. They also see foreigners purchasing lands around them and inch by inch taking from them the soil upon which God in his mercy placed them. These islands are capable of yielding almost anything that man can desire either as luxury or necessary, yet so little attention is paid to agriculture by the natives that thousands of half starved wretches, men and women, are seen daily in Honolulu begging for a subsistence. So disgusted had many of the chiefs become by the policy pursued by the Government that they petitioned the King to send away his foreign advisers and not allow foreigners to purchase lands. Between the foreign residents and the missionaries who are backed by the advisers of the King, there generally exists a bad feeling ~~exists~~ regarding the policy above referred to. So that the character of both parties has been much abused, particularly the latter whose exertions of late years in endeavoring to expel Catholics from the islands have met deserved animadversion. Sending a parcel of fanatics to a far country like this is not the truest way to Christianize & civilize the inhabitants, but had industry, agriculture &c &c been introduced these islands might have become ere this a perfect paradise.

Orders having been received at this place to repair to the Mexican coast in anticipation of a war with Mexico, we left on the 2d of December for Monterey, California, and arrived off that port on the 1st of January 1846, after a pleasant passage of 30 days. We did not anchor but proceeded on the same day for Mazatlan, Mexico where we expected to find the Pacific Squadron under command of Com[o] J. D. Sloat to which we had been attached. After a pleasant passage down the coast we arrived at this port on the 14th of January.

Mazatlan